Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Israel

Defense Minister Arens said his government has taken "diplomatic steps" to curb Hizballah activities, Jerusalem radio reported. Measures are being taken "with U.S. participation" to make it "perfectly clear to Syria that we will act to stop the Hizballah activity in south Lebanon, but that we would rather Damascus did that," Arens stated.

Palestinian Affairs

Palestinian notables Faysal al-Husayni and Sa'ib 'Urayqat visited Yasir 'Arafat at al-Husayn Medical Center in Amman on 3 Jun, Amman TV reported. Other visitors included 'Arafat's wife, Suha al-Tawil, his brother, Dr. Fathi 'Arafat, and King Husayn.

Lebanon

If Israel wants to be safe from Hizballah attacks it should pull out of Lebanese territory, President al-Hirawi stated in an interview cited by the clandestine Voice of the Mountain. Al-Hirawi said he "frankly" believed the Israeli attacks on southern Lebanon would come to a halt once the elections in Israel were over. The president reiterated that Lebanon would participate in the multilateral negotiations once Israel withdrew from the south.

Iraq

The land in the southern al-Rumaylah oil fields "will remain Iraqi territory despite all unjust resolutions," the oil minister stated in an interview with AL-THAWRAH. The minister said relinquishing al-Rumaylah would be "impossible." Meanwhile, the clandestine Voice of Rebellious Iraq reported that "word has spread in Baghdad that several senior officers have staged an attempted coup" against Saddam. In another development, Kurdistan Front parties have agreed to hold another election for a new parliament and a single leader on 10 October, according to "reliable Kurdish sources" cited by the clandestine Voice of the Iraqi People.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Syria Asked To Submit Lebanon Security Plan

JN0406063892 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 4 Jun 92

[Mustafa Bakri dispatch from Cairo]

[Text] Well-informed diplomatic sources told our radio that during his visit to Damascus, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak informed Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad of the details of Egypt's contacts with the United States to bring pressure on Israel to halt its aggression against southern Lebanon and prevent the breakout of an Israeli-Syrian war in the region.

The sources added that U.S. President George Bush affirmed to President Mubarak that he will do his best regarding Israel to have it halt its aggression against southern Lebanon on the condition that Syria exerises self-restraint and continues with the bilateral peace negotiations. President Bush also asked President Mubarak to mediate with al-Asad and to urge him to submit a specific security formula for the relationship between Syria and Israel regarding Lebanon. He affirmed that the U.S. Administration is preparing a draft plan that it will submit to Syria, Lebanon, and Israel in the coming stage.

GCC Condemns Iraq, Israeli Acts in Lebanon

LD0306222792 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Press statement issued by the Ministerial Council of the GCC—Gulf Cooperation Council—Foreign Ministers' Council at the conclusion of its 43d session at the GCC General Secretariat's headquarters in Riyadh on 3 June—read by GCC General Secretary 'Abdallah Bisharah, with introductory paragraph read by announcer; recorded]

[Text] The Ministerial Council held its 43d session on Wednesday, 3 June, in Riyadh under His Highness Shaykh Salim al-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, in the presence of: His Highness Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Zayid Al-Nahayyan, UAE minister of state for foreign affairs; His Excellency Shaykh Khalid Bin-'Abdallah Al Khalifah, Bahrain minister of housing; His Royal Highness Amir Sa'ud Al-Faysal, foreign minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; His Excellency Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs; and His Excellency Mubarak Bin-'Ali al-Khatir, Qatari foreign minister.

[Bisharah] The Ministerial Council studied developments at regional and international levels and noted with much anxiety that despite the passage of more than one year since the acceptance by the Iraqi regime of the UN Security Council [UNSC] Resolution No. 687—which defined the cease-fire conditions—the Iraqi regime is still procrastinating and avoiding implementation of basic clauses of the UNSC resolutions pertaining to its aggression against Kuwait. The Council renews its condemnation of the Iraqi regime for its failure to comply with the UNSC resolutions in full and immediately, especially those clauses related to releasing all Kuwaiti prisoners and detainees and those who are subjects of other states; demarcating borders between Kuwait and Iraq based on the 1932 and 1963 agreements and in accordance with UNSC Resolution No. 687; paying compensation by virtue of its legal responsibility for the damage caused by its aggression and returning all Kuwaiti property; and removing all the weapons of mass destruction. The Council condemns the Iraqi regime's rejection of the resolution by the UN committee about demarcating the borders between Kuwait and Iraq—pertaining to the demarcation of land borders between the two states—for the aggressive intentions that this rejection and violation of the cease-fire conditions entail.

The Ministerial Council calls on the international community, the UNSC members in particular, to address a suitable response to this aggressive position by the Iraqi regime, especially the message addressed by its foreign minister to the UN Secretary General on 21 May 1992, for the flagrant violation and rejection of the resolutions adopted by the Security Council vis-a-vis the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait contained in that message and also for the threat and harm contained in it to its security and sovereignty and to the security and stability of the region.

The Council stresses the need for and the importance of continuing the firm and decisive international position regarding the Iraqi regime until it heeds the resolutions of international legality, and the UNSC resolution adopted last May to maintain sanctions imposed against Iraq until it implements all its international commitments.

The Council reiterates its strong desire for the unity and regional safety of Iraq. The Council holds Iraq fully responsible for the tyranny and bloody oppression practiced against the Iraqi people and stresses Iraq's total responsibility for any other humanitarian suffering subjected against the brotherly people of Iraq as a result of this regime's refusal to implement UNSC Resolutions 706 and 712, which deal with provisions for food and medicines.

The Council follows the peace process aimed at ending the Arab-Israeli conflict and to achieve a just and lasting settlement to the Palestinian cause about the basis of land-for-peace principle and UNSC Resolutions 242 and 338, and provide guarantees for the national rights of the Palestinian people including their right to self-determination, the establishment of their independent state on their land, and their right to return to the homeland.

The Ministerial Council renews its commitment to support the peace efforts; it hails the fundamental and constructive role played by the two sponsors of the peace conference.

The Council expresses its utmost regret and increasing concern over the persistence of Israeli obstinacy and its apparent lack of seriousness and its endeavour to undermine every fundamental progress regarding the ongoing negotiations, while Arab sides express their sincere and certain desire for serious negotiations that would yield the establishment of a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace in the Middle East region.

The Council condemns the continuation of repressive and expansionist Israeli policies in the occupied Arab territories and stresses that the building of settlements, killings, torture, oppression, arbitrary arrests, and deportations carried out by the authorities of occupation against the Palestinian people are totally inconsistent with the current peace efforts and spirit of the new world order. The Council recalls, in this respect, the resolutions of the international legitimacy about this subject, particularly the UNSC resolution adopted unanimously in January 1992 that noted the applicability of the 4th Geneva Convention on all the Palestinian territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including holy Jerusalem.

The Council also expresses its praise and appreciation for the noble initiative of King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, to meet the costs of the restoration of al-Aqsa Mosque, the Dome of the Rock mosque, and the Caliph Umar Bin al-Khattab mosque.

The Council notes an escalation and repetition of the Israeli aggressions on sister Lebanon and condemns these blatant aggressions, which have cost the lives of innocent children and civilians and have emptied the current peace efforts of any serious content. The Council also urges the Security Council to apply real pressures on the Israeli authorities to force them to abandon their expansionist and aggressive policies; to commit themselves to respect the independence, sovereignty, and unity of Lebanon's territory; and to comply fully and unconditionally with UNSC Resolution 425 and withdraw their forces from southern Lebanon at once.

The Council expresses its great satisfaction and pride with the heroic victory achieved by the fighting people of Afghanistan that has entrenched Afghanistan's independent, Muslim identity. It congratulates the leadership and people of Islamic Afghanistan and urges them to end their disputes and to preserve national unity and the unity, independence, and sovereignty of Afghanistan. It expresses the hope that the efforts of the Muslim people of Aghanistan will be united to achieve stability and start the reconstruction process to enable the Afghan refugees to return to their homes and to enable this fraternal Muslim people to undertake their role in constructing and developing this Islamic country and allow it to enjoy security and stability.

The Council follows with extreme concern the bloody situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina; strongly condemns the attack of Serbia and Montenegro and their violation of the independence and unity of the territories of the Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina and the crimes of annihilation and deportation committed by their forces against civilians, women, and children, a matter that contravenes human values and international laws.

The Council calls on the international community to implement UNSC Resolution 757 about imposing sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro and take all other necessary measures to force Serbia and Montenegro to heed the resolutions of international legitimacy and prevent any population or geographical change in this region.

The Ministerial Council welcomes the membership of the republics of Bosnia-Hercegovina, Croatia, and Slovenia to the United Nations and looks forward to a return of security and stability to this region.

On the occasion of the 11th anniversary of the inception of the GCC, the Ministerial Council would like to express its great gratitude for the their majesties and highnesses, the GCC leaders, for their care for the march toward realizing goals and to convey the best sentiments and congratulations. It notes the determination of the GCC states to continue the march of cooperation.

Egypt Abstains on Vote To End Embargo on Libya

NC0306162592 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1244 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Text] Cairo, 3 Jun (MENA)—A responsible Egyptian source at the Ministry of International Cooperation stated that Egypt abstained from voting on the resolutions passed by the Arab Economic Unity Council [AEUC], which called for an end to the air embargo imposed on Libya. The source said the decision was made in line with Egypt's position, maintaining its efforts to mediate a solution to the Libyan-Western crisis.

In a statement today, the source said that the International Cooperation Ministry agreed with the Foreign Ministry on the abstention.

In recommendations and resolutions issued at its concluding session yesterday, the AEUC called on Arab countries to seek an end to the air embargo imposed on the Libyan Jamahiriyah, to fully assist it in the civil aviation field, and to not participate in any economic boycott against it.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat 'Recuperating Well,' Receives Visitors

JN0406094092 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 4-5 Jun 92 pp 1, 5

[Excerpts] Amman (J.T.)—Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat said in an interview Wednesday that he was recuperating well after surgery to remove blood clots in the brain and would leave the hospital in three or four days.

He spoke from the hospital in a telephone interview with the Paris-based Arabic service of Radio Monte Carlo. His voice was normal, reflecting no sign of weakness.

"Thank God, this thing was discovered so quickly and was successfully treated," he said of the clots which his physicians said were caused by head bruises he suffered in a plane crash two months ago.

"I give you the good news," he said addressing Palestinians worldwide. "It was a simple health problem that will heal quickly."

He thanked His Majesty King Husayn and the Jordanian physicians who performed the operation on Monday. "I should be leaving the hospital in three or four days," he said.

He said his doctors asked him to stay one or two more days to rest, but that he insisted that he needed to return to work.

Earlier, one of his physicians, Dr. Yusuf al-Qusus, said Mr 'Arafat's wife, Suha al-Tawil, whom he married in November, was at his bedside in the royal wing of the King Husayn Medical Centre.

Mrs. 'Arafat flew into Jordan Tuesday night, the doctor said.

King Husayn Wednesday visited Mr. 'Arafat in hospital and was reassured of his health conditions, the Jordan News Agency PETRA reported.

The head of the Jordan medical team which conducted the surgery, Dr 'Adil al-Shuraydah, briefed the King on the health condition of Mr. 'Arafat, it said.

Following the visit King Husayn noted in an answer to a journalist's question about banning visits to Mr. 'Arafat that the Palestinian leader talked over the phone Wednesday to Radio Monte Carlo.

The King said the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chairman deserved to rest following the operation and the accident he survived last April in the Libyan desert. [passage omitted]

On Wednesday, several Palestinian personalities visited Mr. 'Arafat. These included member of the PLO Executive Committee Muhammad Milhim, Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian team to peace talks, and Sa'ib 'Uraygat, a negotiator, Jordanian Television said.

Mr. al-Husayni and other Palestinian leaders from the occupied territories have been questioned by police in the past for alleged contacts with PLO officials, but no charges have ever been filed against them.

Officials said Mrs. 'Arafat was met at the airport by the wife of a senior cabinet minister in what was believed to be her first official welcome outside PLO headquarters in Tunis as the chairman's wife.

Word leaked out in February that Mr. 'Arafat had married Miss al-Tawil, a Christian Palestinian researcher.

The PLO leader had said for years he was a bachelor "married to the Palestinian cause." He has avoided public comment on the marriage.

Mr. 'Arafat has not publicly confirmed the marriage. But he told NEWSWEEK magazine in an interview published in May: "I have been looking for a long time and at last found someone who wanted me."

To Leave Hospital 6 Jun

NC0406143892 Paris AFP in English 1420 GMT 4 Jun 92

[Text] Amman, June 4 (AFP)—PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat will leave hospital here by Saturday afternoon after recovering from surgery earlier in the week to remove a blood clot on the brain, his doctors reported Thursday.

The 62-year-old chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization is in "excellent health, is walking normally, taking meals and receiving visitors," said Yusuf al-Qusus head of medical services at Al-Husayn Medical Center.

'Arafat's personal physician, Ashraf al-Kurdi, added in a statement that the PLO leader "is in excellent shape and is convalescing."

'Arafat underwent surgery here Monday, after complaining of headaches, to remove a blood clot on the brain brought on by bruising sustained in a plane crash in the Libyan desert on the night of April 7-8.

Suha al-Tawil, 'Arafat's 28-year-old wife, met journalists outside the hospital and thanked King Husayn and Jordanian authorities for their assistance.

'Abd-al-Shafi Urges Israelis To Meet 'Arafat

LD0306163392 Hamburg DPA in German 1418 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Text] Bonn (DPA)—The chief Palestinian delegate at the Middle East negotiations, Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, has called on Israel to take PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat's offer to meet Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir seriously. "This is a further gesture proving the will and earnestness of the Palestinians to reach a lasting peace," 'Abd-al-Shafi said today in a conversation with DPA in Bonn. Shamir cannot carry on rejecting every peace offer, while persisting on his own unrealistic course.

The Palestinian diplomat, who had held talks on the peace process with representatives from the government, opposition, and parliament in Bonn, assigned Israel sole blame for the current standstill. The use of "naked force" in the occupied territories and continuing new Jewish settlements are also a challenge for the United States and the European democracies. Pressure on Israel is the only

possibility for getting the talks, which have become bogged down, going again. "I don't see any other way of getting out of the impasse."

In Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi's view, the Federal Republic is often in no position to exercise real pressure because of its sensitive relationship with the Jews and the State of Israel. "However, the rejection of Israeli loan requests shows unequivocally that the Germans are countering all steps that are making the peace process more difficult; and that applies above all to the settlement policy." Germany was unlikely to be able to have any other influence.

Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi said he was concerned that the standstill in the negotiations will serve extremist forces. The position of the Palestinian negotiating delegation was becoming increasingly difficult and critical. "I don't think we'll be able to go on for much longer if this situation continues. We are now waiting for the U.S. response, and that won't come until after the elections." In 'Abd-al-Shafi's words, the "Intifada," the protest movement in the occupied territories, will continue because it embodies the legitimate right to self-determination. The diplomat condemned acts of violence and murders on both sides, but also repression by Israel, which "exploits individual acts of violence in an ugly manner."

'Arafat on Peace Process, Relations With France

PM0406103692 Paris LE QUOTIDIEN DE PARIS in French 2 Jun 92 p 21

[Interview with PLO Leader Yasir 'Arafat by Michel Tauriac in Tunis "a few days before his operation"]

[Text] [Tauriac] What chance do you think the multilateral negotiations have of succeeding?

['Arafat] Not even one chance in ten with the present Israeli leadership. The Israelis are refusing to understand the present world situation. The Berlin Wall came down, then the Soviet empire ended, and then there was a new world order. There was also the Gulf war. And then apartheid disappeared in South Africa. But, for the Israelis, it is as if nothing had happened. They do not want to take any account of all that. They do not accept history's lessons. They talk only of Greater Israel, from the Nile to the Euphrates, their old dream, with Jerusalem as its capital, the eternal capital of Greater Israel. I hope that the Israeli people understand that this leadership is stupid, that it does not want peace, that it is merely haggling.

[Tauriac] Would you be prepared to meet with Shamir if he asked you to? Could you repeat al-Sadat's gesture?

['Arafat] I have several times proposed to the Israelis what General de Gaulle called the "peace of the brave." But there is no question of me going to Jerusalem under Israeli jurisdiction. I will only go there to hoist the Palestinian flag. For the present, I can meet Shamir somewhere else, at the United Nations for instance, or on neutral territory under international auspices, in Geneva or Paris.

[Tauriac] You were strongly criticized for having adopted a pro-Iraqi stance during the Gulf war. Do you have any regrets?

['Arafat] I will ask you a question: How many times have the Europeans asked me to solve their problems with Iraq? So why does nobody remember that kind of thing now? And then there are these other questions: What did the Gulf war solve? Do you know what Europe gained from it? What about France? Nothing at all.

[Tauriac] Has the Habash case affected your relations with France?

['Arafat] The matter is closed. Fortunately, we have overcome all the negative aspects of that crisis.

[Tauriac] You do not resent the way in which France acted?

['Arafat] I have no right to criticize a friendly country and a friendly president for whom I have respect and great admiration. What happened, happened.

[Tauriac] If you were ill, would you think of seeking treatment in France?

['Arafat] Why not? After the plane accident in Libya, in which I nearly died and in which some of those accompanying me did die, Paris offered me treatment in France. We will never forget the French position at that time—that of President Mitterrand and also that of our opposition friends. We will not forget the position taken by the French parliament, the kind words which Mr. Dumas spoke to the house when it was announced that I was safe and well. To think that some people dared to write that that accident was staged!

[Tauriac] Although nobody in the PLO questions your place as head of the organization, your dictatorial approach is criticized. Did that plane accident not make you think of sharing power more?

['Arafat] Who said that I have all the power? I am elected democratically. There are laws and institutions within the PLO. I scrupulously respect them. The decision to go to the Madrid conference, for instance, was made unanimously by the Palestine National Council.

[Tauriac] You were returning from Sudan when you had that accident. You apparently negotiated the possibility of establishing PLO headquarters in that country because Tunisia finds you too much of an encumbrance and is asking you to leave.

['Arafat] Ridiculous. The Tunisians have always been our friends and I will never be able to thank them enough for welcoming us to their country.

[Tauriac] The Islamic fundamentalists seem to have growing support among the Palestinians in the occupied territories. Are you not likely to see them get out of control?

['Arafat] Anything which can embarrass the PLO obviously pleases the Israelis. That is true of the Islamic fundamentalists. The Israelis are giving them money to strengthen them against the PLO. The Iranians are doing likewise. But we have no worries. Our population knows where democracy lies—on the PLO's side.

[Tauriac] Do you maintain your allegation that the telephone conversation between you and Ibrahim al-Sus, your representative in France, in which you insult the Jews, was a complete fabrication?

['Arafat] Yes. Nobody has ever heard me insult my enemies. If I insult the Jews, I am not a Muslim. In my view, a good Muslim is a good Christian and a good Jew. I am opposed to Zionism but I am not against Judaism. I maintain that that conversation was fabricated by the Israeli secret service.

PLO Urges UN Protection for Palestinians

LD0306193692 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Text] At noon yesterday Palestinian representative Nasir al-Qudwah handed the UN Security Council chairman a letter reporting the details of the oppressive operations and brutal aggressions committed by Israel in the occupied territories. The PLO appealed to the United Nations and the international community to grant international protection to the Palestinians who are living under Israeli occupation.

Paper Warns of Gaza Strip Economic Disaster

TA0306185592 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 3 Jun 92 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "The Blockade of the Gaza Strip—Where To?"]

[Text] The signs of an economic disaster in the Gaza Strip are appearing daily under the weight of a military blockade imposed by the Israeli authorities nine days ago.

While Gaza Strip economists, industrialists, farmers, and traders are continuing to describe their losses and the grave consequences of continuing the blockade, certain Israeli sources are stressing that the closure will go on for a long time and might last until after 23 June—that is, until after the 13th Knesset elections!

Observers are noting that, in any event, the Israeli elections are involved in this closure. Despite the fact that the blockade was imposed in the wake of the murder of a girl in Bat Yam, its progressive continuation—in the form of "collective punishment" for the entire Gaza Strip—reflects an extremely hardline political stance by the Israeli Government.

That is the reason Gaza Strip residents and all of us have called on the peace conference cosponsors, the United States and Russia, to have this siege lifted immediately. The United Nations and European countries are also being called on to pressure the Israeli Government to cease its collective punishment in the occupied territories.

The crucial stage that the peace process has reached cannot endure more of these measures. The rationale of peace itself rules out the continuation of this disastrous blockade at a time when serious preparations are being made to convene the sixth round of bilateral negotiations in Rome.

Will the Israeli Government lift its blockade of the Gaza Strip? Or is it not concerned about the accelerating disaster and about the entire peace process?

Algeria

Clash With 'Armed Gang' in Zegla Forest Reported

LD0306222992 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Excerpt] Various weapons and medicines were discovered by the police in two hideouts in the Zegla forest in Sidi Bel Abbes, the site of confrontations last week. Also arrested were 18 people who collaborated with the gang that clashed with the police and special forces.

[Begin video recording] This is the Zegla forest, Telagh district, wilaya of Sidi Bel Abbes. Last week, the area was the scene of a clash between units of the national police, supported by the special forces, and individuals belonging to an armed gang. The clash resulted in one dead and two wounded among the ranks of the National Popular Army, and two of the armed gang wounded, who were arrested, as well as one dead.

Subsequently, the National Popular Army units carried out a combing operation, as a result of which they were able to arrest 18 people who collaborated with the gang in several operations. Two hideouts were also discovered in the Zegla forest, containing various weapons, ammunition, and military clothes, as well as medicines, blankets, foodstuffs, and considerable sums of money.

The leader of this gang is the one in the photograph and is called Aissani Yahya, alias Dress, who was a member of the former municipal council of the municipality Chelia, Benchiba, in the Telagh district, who belonged to the dissolved party [FIS]. [passage omitted] [end recording]

[The same program later reports that in the "last few days," the police of the Algiers wilaya "arrested people implicated in the events of 5 May. These events took place in some districts of the capital, especially Badjarah."]

Court Sentences 5 To Death For Lakhdaria Murder

LD0306202592 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Text] This morning the criminal court of Bouira [about 90 kms southeast of Algiers] issued death sentences against five accused people who are still at large and who are implicated in the horrible murder that was committed in the Lakhdaria area during the incidents of last June, the victim of which was Lakhdar policeman Ait Oudi.

Detainees' Families Stage Protest, Demand Release

LD0306165792 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Text] A small group of families gathered outside the prime minister's office this morning to demand the release of family members being held in special detention centers. The security forces intervened peacefully to disperse the group toward the side streets of the city.

Security Forces Disperse Demonstrators

LD0306172392 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Text] The security forces intervened before noon today in the center of the capital, along Avenue Pasteur, to disperse a protest outside the government palace organized by families of the detainees being held at the security centers. The demonstrators were demanding the release of their relatives.

The security forces fired a number of warning shots to disperse the demonstrators. According to an eyewitness one person was injured. The security forces deny there were any injuries.

More Detainees Released From Reggane Center

LD0306201492 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Text] It was learned today from reliable sources that 86 detainees were released from the security centers of Reggane, south of Adrar, and El Homeur, north east of Timimoun. With this operation, the number of detainees who have been released from the Reggane center, which contains 3,000 prisoners, goes up to 600. According to the same source, other detainees will be released before the 'Id al-Adha.

Blida Court Chairman Escapes Kidnap Attempt

LD0406081392 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Text] It has been learned from today's ESSALAM newspaper that the chairman of the Blida military court recently escaped an attempted kidnapping by unknown persons.

It is noteworthy that Blida military court will, at the end of this month, begin the trial of the leaders of the dissolved Islamic Salvation Front, including Cheikhs Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj.

Egypt

Information Minister on Mubarak-al-Asad Talks

NC0306141992 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Text] Damascus, 3 Jun (MENA)—The talks between Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad ended in Damascus this afternoon.

Safwat al-Sharif, Egyptian information minister and member of the delegation accompanying President Mubarak, said the two presidents held three hours of talks, during which they underlined the special relations between the two fraternal countries and exchanged views on all Arab and international topics.

Al-Sharif said the Mubarak-al-Asad talks dealt with the overall Arab situation and the Middle East issue, the peace talks in particular. The two presidents assessed the stances of all the parties participating in the peace talks, the meetings of the five committees stemming from the multilateral talks, and the meetings which will be held at the beginning of September.

Syria is not participating in the meetings of the committees arising from the multilateral talks.

Al-Sharif said they also discussed the Damascus Declaration, bilateral relations, and joint cooperation in light of the Joint Higher Ministerial Committee's meetings.

Commentary Views Talks

NC0306184792 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Mahmud Marzuq commentary: "Egyptian-Syrian Summit is for Arab Good"]

[Text] President Husni Mubarak's visit to Damascus today and his talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad are particularly important in view of the current situation and the position the Arab nation needs to mobilize all its resources and energies to confront the challenges obstructing progress. Today's important talks between the two Arab leaders, Mubarak and al-Asad, come in light of the influential status of Cairo and of Damascus on the Arab, regional, and international levels.

The two leaders will discuss all the urgent issues, on which Arab citizens' attention is focused and with which they are preoccupied, to define steps, coordinate stands, and emerge with a common view serving the Arab nation's goals and fateful issues. These talks will deal with the Israeli aggression on Lebanon, topics relating to the Damascus Declaration, and coordination among the Arab parties participating in the peace process. They will also deal with ways to contain the Libyan crisis with the West and efforts to settle it peacefully.

The pace of world events, especially the dangers surrounding the region resulting from Israel's rejection of peace and its continuing attacks on southern Lebanon, indicate the importance of joint Arab action based on solidarity and coordination among the Arab brothers to unify their stands and adopt decisions commensurate with Arab demands in this big world, which is witnessing fast-moving developments and strange contradictions.

Undoubtedly, a common Egyptian-Syrian stand and stronger ties of brotherhood and confidence between them are a source of strength and hope for the Arabs, for surpassing all ordeals and difficulties facing national awakening. Their political influence and huge resources and capabilities make Egypt and Syria a base for laying down the foundation of joint Arab action. So the two leaders will discuss topics relating to the Damascus Declaration—which expresses the hope and true intention of making the Middle East a region of stability, security, and peace. The conditions are now right for facing the challenges to the region's security and stability after the liberation of Kuwait.

The challenges are big. The Arab situation requires the Arab nation to mobilize all its resources and to adopt the correct course to prove its existence. This is a priority issue in Egypt's policy and for its leader Mubarak, who continues to try his best to resolve the Libyan crisis with the West. This is yet another example of the importance of Mubarak's visit to Damascus and of his talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

A meeting between Egypt and Syria always benefits the Arab's welfare, causes, and rights. Coordination and understanding between Egypt and Syria always represent the nucleus of joint Arab action to serve the Arab nation's fateful causes. Under President Mubarak, Egypt will remain the real guarantor and the strong defender of Arab rights, regardless of the challenges. So we say that the Mubarak-al-Asad meeting today will have positive results for the Arab nation's causes.

Mubarak Returns to Cairo

NC0306195292 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Text] President Husni Mubarak returned to Cairo this evening after a brief visit to Syria, during which he held talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad on the Arab situation, the Middle East problem, and the peace process.

Jihad Members Leave Afghanistan for Sudan

NC0406093092 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 1 Jun 92 p 12

[Text] ROSE AL-YUSUF has learned that three groups of Jihad Organization members returning from Afghanistan went to Sudan last week in accordance with an agreement Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, mufti of the Jihad Organization, and Dr. Hasan al-Turabi, secretary of Sudan's Islamic Front, concluded during a secret meeting in New York.

Jihad sources indicate that Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman met with al-Turabi for two hours during the latter's recent visit to New York. The two men discussed the conditions of the Jihad Organization members living in Sudanese training camps and the possibility of employing the fighters returning from Afghanistan in training instead of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards, whose presence in Sudan concerns neighboring countries and provides a pretext to the Western campaign against Sudan.

The sources revealed that 300 members of the Egyptian Jihad Organization served in Afghanistan. Of those, 60 members have already gone to Sudan, having been warned of returning directly to Egypt. Egyptian security forces arrested the first group of Jihad members who returned to Egypt, including six physicians who are

members of the Physicians Association and who participated in the medical effort in Afghanistan.

Libya

Embargo Said Affecting Children's Health Services

LD0306133592 Rabat MAP in English 1309 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Text] Tripoli, June 3 (MAP)—The anti-Libyan air embargo has affected children protection programs and services and has deprived Libyan children of vaccination, medicine and food, the Libyan Ministry of Children Welfare Tuesday announced.

A statement published by JANA news agency says the embargo is putting at stake the life of several children, mainly babies, and deprives them of prevention and vaccination means.

The Libyan children department stresses that if the embargo is not lifted, it will further affect the health and food services and hinder children-protection programs in Libya.

Public Utilities Head Meets Polish Delegation

LD0306101292 Tripoli JANA in English 0809 GMT 3 Jun 92

["Pool" item]

[Text] Tripoli, al-Sayf [June] 3, JANA—The secretary of the General People's Committee for Public Utilities and General Works in Tripoli held a meeting yesterday with the Polish delegation which is currently visiting the Great Jamahiriyah within the framework of the preparations for the Arab-Libyan-Polish joint committee meetings.

The secretary of the General People's Committee for Public Utilities and General Works confirmed during the meeting that relations of friendship are well established between the Great Jamahiriyah and Poland and he also stressed the need to promote them in the interest of both people.

The head of the Polish delegation reconfirmed, from his side, the support of the Polish people to the Great Jamahiriyah against the unjust punitive sanctions imposed against it. [passage indistinct]

The meeting was attended by a number of economic experts in the Great Jamahiriyah and in Poland.

Ben Ali Chairs Cabinet Budget Meeting

LD0406093592 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Text] A restricted cabinet meeting, chaired by President Ben Ali this morning at Carthage Palace, was devoted to reviewing the pattern of implementing the state budget for 1992 within the levels of revenues and expenditures. The cabinet registered the process of this implementation according to estimates.

The cabinet then examined the initial major lines of the state draft budget for 1993 in light of the development work options in the next stage. In this context, the head of state stressed the need for completing the draft of the next budget on the basis of the priorities defined by the eighth plan. He also urged the continuation and intensification of work to mobilize the maximum amount of state resources, particularly tax revenues, by improving their collection and by more control and rationalization of the ordinary expenditure of the state to make it possible to back up allocations for the public services and especially in the education and health sectors and the infrastructure projects necessary to push forward investments.

Morocco

Government Condemns Israeli Attacks on Lebanon

LD0206154492 Rabat MAP in English 1256 GMT 2 Jun 92

[Text] Rabat, June 2 (MAP)—Morocco vehemently condemns the aggressions against South Lebanon as "unacceptable and creating a tension that will lead to escalation", said Monday a Moroccan official source.

The foreign department spokesman told MAP "Morocco appeals to the international community to take urgent measures to end Israel's aggressions against the Lebanese people and its territory and spare Lebanon all that may jeopardize the national understanding process reached by the internationally-supported al-Ta'if accord".

Morocco, said the same source, "renews utter support to Lebanon and denounces all actions meant to put at stake its independence and territorial integrity and invites the Security Council to implement Resolution 425 pertaining to Israel's withdrawal from the lands it occupies in South Lebanon".

Yugoslav Ambassador Recalled for Consultations

LD0306133992 Rabat MAP in English 1226 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Text] Rabat, June 3 (MAP)—Moroccan ambassador to Belgrade was recalled for consultation, announced Tuesday the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation.

Morocco recognized Apr 27, 1992 the Republics of Croatia, Slovenia and Bosnia-Hercegovina.

French Minister Discusses Trade, EC Cooperation

LD0306134592 Rabat MAP in English 1223 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Text] Rabat, June 3 (MAP)—French Industry and Foreign Trade Minister Dominique Strauss-Khan left here

Tuesday after a visit to Morocco during which he met several cabinet members. Means to enhance bilateral cooperation in every field were approached.

In a press conference in Rabat, Khan said Morocco could have very special partnership relations with the EC and stressed the fact close ties with France could be an asset.

Of his visit to the kingdom, the minister said the French Government deemed it was high time economic relations between the two countries were more dynamic. He praised progress achieved saying in thirty years Morocco managed to have a foothold in world market economy. He raised the issue of the gas pipeline to convey Algerian gas through morocco and the Gibraltar Strait and said French firms will be widely involved.

Khan also said that his visit which takes place on the eve of a tour in the kingdom by the Chairman of the European Community Commission Jacques Delors, is meant to tell Morocco France was ready to help transform Moroccan economy to bridge the gap with the EC economy.

Upon arrival in Paris, Khan told "MAP" that France is the first country calling for "closer ties" between Morocco and the European Economic Community and insisted on the need for his country to step up efforts to enhance bilateral cooperation.

Sudan

Al-Bashir on Peace Talks, Military Successes

EA0306220592 Khartoum SUNA in English 1718 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Text] Khartoum, 3 Jun (SUNA)—The Sudan attaches great concern to the current talks between the government and the rebellion movement, and the two sides could overcome disagreement on some issues through dialogue, said the chairman of the Revolution Command Council, Gen 'Umar al-Bashir.

Speaking to the leaderships of the media institution here Wednesday [3 June], Gen al-Bashir said the government insisted on solving the southern problem within the unified Sudan. Thus the referendum issue was dropped. He pointed out that Nigeria presented a paper on federalism which was accepted by the Sudanese Government.

Meanwhile, Bashir said that the Armed Forces and the Popular Defence Forces have secured a great success in the recent operations code-named the "Summer Crossing." The Armed Forces were able to enter Bor town without resistance, Gen al-Bashir said, adding [that] the successes of the Armed Forces exceeded what was expected before the beginning [of the] operations.

He said the Armed Forces shocked the rebels in Kapoeta following its (?secret) start from Pibor, affirming that the rebels fled leaving great quantities of ammunition and food supplies, in adding [as received] to vehicles and tanks.

North-west of Juba is absolutely ensured, Gen al-Bashir said, citing that Terakaka forces under the command of Col Clement were able to secure large areas. He said the Mondari tribesmen were defecting from [the] rebel movement to the Armed Forces in Terakaka, beside a big number which surrendered at (Badr) and Pibor despite that their arrival was hindered by the rebels.

Relief operation to the said areas is under way in spite that the rebels threatened to down any relief cargo plane.

Official Holds Talks With Iranian Ambassador

EA0306101092 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1530 GMT 1 Jun 92

[Text] Khartoum, 1 Jun (SUNA)—Mr. Ali Muhammad 'Uthman Yasin, the Foreign Ministry undersecretary, held talks here today with Mr. Majid Kamal, ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Sudan, on the progress of bilateral relations and ways of strengthening them. They also discussed Iran's commemoration of the third anniversary of the departure of the late Ayatollah Khomeyni. The two also reviewed the situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina and how to prevent further suffering of the Muslims there. The meeting also discussed the ongoing preparations in Sudan to celebrate the third anniversary of the National Salvation Revolution.

Kuwait

Council Approves War Compensation for Families

LD0206171492 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1203 GMT 2 Jun 92

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 2 Jun (KUNA)—The Kuwaiti National Council today approved the proposal to grant each Kuwaiti family 5,000 Kuwaiti dinars in compensation for the destruction incurred by the unjust Iraqi aggression. [passage omitted] The finance minister told the Council that the total amount taken in charge by the state so far is around 4 billion Kuwaiti dinars.

The expenses which were aimed at repelling the aggressor and recovering the land have caused a clear budget deficit in the 1991-92 financial year amounting to 5 billion Kuwaiti dinars. Finance Minister Nasir 'Abdallah al-Ridan said that the high financial cost of the proposal will negatively affect the state's financial capabilities, in addition to the fact that this measure might harm the stance of Kuwait and the Kuwaitis vis-a-vis the UN compensation fund, a matter which might affect Kuwait's priority holding status in compensations. [passage omitted]

Qatar

Amir, Indian Minister Discuss Economic Cooperation

JN0306113692 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0955 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Text] Doha, 3 Jun (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, amir of Qatar, received here today Mr. Eduardo Faleiro, Indian minister of state for external affairs, on the occasion of his visit to Doha.

The meeting was attended by His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, crown prince and defense minister, and Romesh Chandra Shukla, the Indian ambassador to Qatar.

The QATARI NEWS AGENCY said that talks at the meeting dealt with ways of bolstering bilateral cooperation, particularly in the economic and investment fields, in addition to reviewing developments in the Gulf region and the Indian Ocean, and a number of regional and international issues of joint interest.

Saudi Arabia

Fahd To Sponsor 300,000 Albanian Pilgrims

LD0206195992 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1622 GMT 2 Jun 92

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 2 Jun (SPA)—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, has issued a directive to increase the number of Albanian Muslims who will be accommodated at his personal expense from 150,000 to 300,000 pilgrims. This was announced by Minister of Pilgrimage and Religious Endowments 'Abd al-Wahhab Bin-'Abd-al-Wasi'. [passage omitted]

Fahd Receives Cables from Leading Sudanese Figures

LD0306130492 Riyadh SPA in English 1225 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Text] Riyadh, June 3, SPA—Custodian of the two holy mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz has received cables of support from prominent Sudanese figures, incldng former Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri, in which they expressed their displeasure and condemnation of the statement made by Sudanese President 'Umar al-Bashir, in which he accused the Kingdom of supplying arms to rebels in southern Sudan.

In their cables, the Sudanese figures noted the great deeds of King Fahd in support of Muslims in general, and Sudanese people in particular.

They also apologized for the statement made by al-Bashir, whom they said represents only himself and represents the so called Islamic Front.

Meanwhile, King Fahd has received more cables of thanks and appreciation from Islamic societies in France on the occasion of the directives given by the king for the repair and renovation of three mosques in holy al-Quds [Jerusalem].

In their cables, the societies praised the king's Islamic gesture and noble deed. They also noted the Saudi monarch great services to Islam and Muslims.

King Receives Iranian Thanks on Mosque Repairs

LD3005212492 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] A responsible Foreign Ministry source told SPA today that the ambassador of King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, to the Islamic Republic of Iran sent the Saudi Foreign Ministry a cable in which His Excellency Iranian President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani thanked King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, for his looking after and repairing the houses of God and expressed Iran's supports for him—may God safeguard him—in his good effort to repair the mosques in Jerusalem in cooperation with UNESCO. The source said: The Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, while pointing to Iran's support for the initiative of the custodian of the two holy mosques, would like to thank His Excellency Iranian President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani for his good sentiments.

United Arab Emirates

Ministry Condemns Israeli Attacks on Lebanon

JN0306100292 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 1 Jun 92 pp 1, 13

[Excerpt] The United Arab Emirates has condemned the continuing Israeli attacks against Lebanese territory. It appealed to the world community and concerned international organizations, especially the UN Security Council, to take the necessary measures to put a prompt end to Israel's acts and force it to comply with international legitimacy.

This was stated to the Emirates News Agency by an official Foreign Ministry source. [passage omitted]

Diplomatic Ties Established With Albania 1 Jun

JN0306161592 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 2 Jun 92 p 1

[Text] The Government of the United Arab Emirates [UAE] and that of the Republic of Albania have decided to establish diplomatic ties at the ambassadorial level effective 1 June 1992. A joint statement issued yesterday evening in Abu Dhabi and Tirana says that this decision stems from a mutual desire to bolster relations of friendship and cooperation. Albania is the last East European nation with which the UAE has established diplomatic relations. Thus, the number of states with which the UAE is linked by diplomatic ties has risen to 107.

Yemen

Al-'Attas Speaks on Economics, Security, Borders

PM0206110692 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 30 May 92 p 3

[Interview with Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas by Lutfi Shatarah in Aden; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Shatarah] Two years after the unification of the two parts of Yemen economic difficulties are increasing and unemployment has started to pose a threat to Yemen. What are the reasons for this?

[Al-'Attas] Our Yemeni people achieved their blessed unity after a long and great struggle. Our people have achieved one of their major aims. Obviously the achievement of such an aim must have faced a number of difficulties. But, with the same will, our people are confronting the difficulties that face them—perhaps most important, economic difficulties. [passage omitted]

The state has allocated huge sums of money within the framework of the general investment program, totalling some 15.8 billion rials, to projects in the economic fields and the various services in order to provide jobs for our people's sons. This is in addition to investments in the oil fields in which a large group of specialist foreign companies are working. [passage omitted]

[Shatarah] How are Yemen's foreign debts paid? What are the reasons for floating the currency? Has this caused the increasing price rises? Are any conditions imposed by the IMF?

[Al-'Attas] Not at all. Yemen will not submit to any kind of economic pressure from any quarter, whether financial or any other. This, because we are fulfilling our foreign commitments and paying the installments due, especially those owed to international, regional, and Arab organizations financing economic projects. The government is currently striving to reschedule government loans. Despite the difficult economic conditions it faces, the government has allocated considerable sums of money to pay regularly the installments due in 1992. [passage omitted]

[Shatarah] How would you assess the results of oil exploration in Yemen, and what facilities are you offering companies to invest in that field?

[Al-'Attas] Oil results are very encouraging. After unity was established the government pursued a new policy in the oil exploration field. That policy started late in 1990, then 1991 witnessed major success in its implementation. It was based on two fundamental elements:

First, the republic's regions were divided into small and medium-sized areas according to the information available about them. The old policy, which established vast areas, was abolished.

Second, the door was opened to all companies from all over the world to invest in our country, especially companies with the financial and technical ability to work in this field.

This policy has been very successful. Despite international conditions, we have managed to attract the biggest companies operating in the oil field. There are over 25 companies operating in oil exploration in Yemen. Recent oil explorations are very encouraging and indicate that the Republic of Yemen has huge quantities of this national wealth. [passage omitted]

[Shatarah] Stability and security are two important factors for investment. How is your government tackling the disruptions that occurred recently, resulting in public political assassinations?

[Al-'Attas] Security and stability are our development and our future. This is why the government is earnestly working to provide the conditions of security and stability in the republic. Some incidents occurred recently that disrupted security. They included attempted assassinations or political assassinations. Perhaps it was this factor that disrupted security and harmed national unity the most. The government has worked to arrest a number of suspects in a number of cases, including the case of the explosions that took place near my home.

The guards have managed to arrest suspects accused of carrying out that operation. They and the suspects

arrested in the case of the attempt to assassinate Justice Minister 'Abd-al-Wasi' Sallam are being questioned.

The security organs—

[Shatarah] As a prominent Yemeni Socialist Party member, how do you explain the incidents which your members in particular have experienced?

[Al-'Attas] Assassination attempts are directed against many forces, whether from the party or the from Congress (the General People's Congress, the joint ruling party), as well as other figures. The first of these operations started with the attempt to assassinate 'Umar al-Jawi (leader of the Yemeni Unionist Grouping). So these operations are directed not against individuals or parties, but against Yemen and its democratic line. So they are detrimental to national unity and to Yemeni unity. [passage omitted]

[Shatarah] How is the process of demarcating borders with the Sultanate of Oman proceeding?

[Al-'Attas] That process is proceeding well. The points of disagreements that existed during the previous negotiations have been settled, and the technical committee is working in the field to set up the main border points, beginning with Ra's Darbat on the Red Sea through to the point on map 19-52. I believe that the committee will be able to complete setting up the main points so that we can, once the job is completed, draft the agreement between the Sultanate of Oman and us. [passage omitted]

Ambassador To Be Withdrawn From Belgrade

JN0306144692 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Excerpts] The Council of Ministers held a regular meeting this morning chaired by brother Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas. The Council discussed the various issues listed on its agenda. [passage omitted]

The Council of Ministers heard a Foreign Ministry report on the massacres being committed by the Serb forces against the citizens of Bosnia-Herzegovina. The Council condemned the crimes perpetrated against humanity and decided to withdraw the Yemeni ambassador from Belgrade. The Council discussed other issues and took the necessary measures to deal with them.

Foreign Minister Returns From CIS, Baltic Tour

JN0306145692 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Text] Brother Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, minister of state for foreign affairs, returned to Sanaa this morning following an official visit to a number of CIS and Baltic states.

In a statement to the Yemeni news agency, SABA', brother al-Dali noted that he had conveyed a number of letters from brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, to the presidents of the states he visited. The messages pertained to bilateral relations. He also held talks with the foreign ministers of these states on bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest.

Al-Rumaylah 'Will Remain Iraqi Territory'

JN0306114192 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 1 Jun 92 pp 1, 9

[By 'Abd-al-Wahid Harjan]

[Excerpt] Oil Minister Usamah 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hiti has stressed that the land in the southern al-Rumaylah oil field, which has been cut off by the Iraq-Kuwait border demarcation commission, will remain Iraqi territory despite all unjust resolutions. He added: Relinquishing it would be impossible.

Answering a question posed by AL-THAWRAH, the minister said in a news conference, attended by representatives of the local press yesterday, that the resolution will not affect the exploitation of the southern al-Rumaylah oil field, nor will it affect Iraq's oil reserves. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Meets With Visiting UN Official

JN0306192892 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn Khudayyir met with Kofi Annan, the UN assistant secretary general for peacekeeping operations [title as heard], and his delegation today. During their meeting, they discussed various aspects of cooperation between Iraq and the United Nations in all spheres.

The minister affirmed that Iraq cooperates when it sees that the other side is demonstrating objectivity, confines itself to its mission, and reveals facts truthfully and honestly.

For his part, Kofi Annan expressed his appreciation for Iraq's constructive and positive cooperation with the United Nations and the UN Security Council.

Paper Reviews UN Decision To Continue Blockade

JN0106113892 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 30 May 92 p 2

[Text] New York/United Nations—The UN Security Council last Wednesday, [27 May], decided to maintain the multiform blockade which has been imposed on Iraq since August 1990.

Following a UN Security Council meeting, Austrian Ambassador Peter Hohenfellner, current president of the UN Security Council, said that the Council members did not reach agreement to even partially lift the blockade. Diplomatic sources, however, explained that the Council members quickly reached agreement to maintain it.

This was an expected decision after Rolf Ekeus, head of the UN mission charged with the elimination of all Iraqi weapons of mass destruction—chemical, biological, ballistic, and nuclear weapons—had submitted a report stating that Iraq refused to provide full information about these weapons, and that it still refused to abide by all the UN Security Council resolutions despite the progress made in certain areas.

Prior to the UN Security Council's decision, the Iraqi mission had published the letter of Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, minister of state for foreign affairs, in which he rejected Ekeus' report, stating that Iraq has positively responded to all the UN Security Council's requests, with the exception of those that would endanger its security and sovereignty.

Regarding the chemical, biological, and ballistic weapons, the minister stressed that Iraq has fully cooperated [with the UN Security Council], and that it is ready to provide a full and final report to the UN Special Commission. He said that the same applies to the Iraqi nuclear facilities on which Hans Blix, International Atomic Energy Agency director general, received a full and detailed report on 12 March.

Al-Sahhaf reiterated that Iraq is ready to discuss with the United Nations all measures that would allow the United Nations to ascertain that Iraq is not seeking to produce new banned weapons, and that this should take place within the framework of respect for Iraq's sovereignty.

On the sidelines of the Council, Ekeus said that he is ready to define, in writing, the measures which the United Nations would take for the sake of respecting this principle as soon as Iraq has officially accepted the principle of permanent inspection of its civilian and military industries. Excluding this point, the minister said that Iraq has agreed to everything except providing a list of foreign companies which contributed to supplying Iraq with military or nuclear equipment.

The minister said that this was a moral stand which Iraq would not go back on so long as revealing these names would endanger the lives of some persons and pave the way for retaliatory actions by enemy intelligence organs, particularly the Israeli intelligence.

Finally, the minister again referred to the dispute between Iraq and the Council regarding the flights of UN helicopters in Iraq's airspace. He said that the use of these helicopters is no longer justified as long as everything has become clear.

The UN Security Council has committed itself to reviewing the blockade on Iraq every 60 days to determine whether or not it should be lifted.

More Reportage on Opposition Activities, Fighting

Rebel Radio Reports 'Attempted Coup'

NC0306150692 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1320 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Text] For the past week, Saddam's humiliated guards have been taking precautions in Baghdad. The cowardly guards have built barbed wire fences around their camps and are digging ditches around their positions, fearing attacks by our valiant popular forces.

The guards, who live in panic and fear, have been placed on full alert and have intensified their presence in public squares and at major intersections, as well as on the approaches to Baghdad.

Over the past two weeks, there have been significant developments in al-Rashid camp in Baghdad. Worry and confusion were evident among the mercenaries of the so-called military security force which has been assigned to protect the camp.

Elsewhere, the cowardly 'Aflaqites have set up scores of checkpoints, where military men are thoroughly searched, on the roads to al-Rashid camp.

Word has spread in Baghdad that several senior officers have staged an attempted coup to overthrow despicable Saddam.

'Past Two Weeks' Operations Reported

NC0306154892 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1320 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Courageous and faithful, our heroic mujahidin are confronting religion's enemies. With the resolve of the angry masses, the mujahidin are hastening the end of the collapsing regime, which is oppressing our people and torturing the women, children, and aged.

Defending our rights and dignity, and defying the international silence on the Saddamist terror, our dedicated fighters' operations against the traitors, enemies of the people, and Saddam's henchmen have escalated over the past two weeks.

1. Our forces attacked a patrol boat in al-Qurnah, which was carrying a group of Saddam's reckless personnel. The attackers set fire to the boat, killing those on board, including a captain and a lieutenant.

2. In the same area, our heroes ambushed and killed Rasmi 'Abd-al-Rida, an intelligence officer of the 1st Regiment of the 70th Brigade, and a 1st lieutenant who was with him. The attack occurred on the road between al-Qurnah and al-Dayr.

3. A heroic group of our sons killed 'Ali 'Abd-al-'Aziz Jakku, member of the so-called [Ba'th Party] branch of al-Basrah. The attack was carried out in al-Sa'i area.

May God support the men of the blessed uprising; he is the best supporter.

'Brutal Raids' in al-'Amarah Continue

NC0306145492 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1420 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Text] Defeated by the popular uprising forces, the regime's forces are pouring their wrath on our unarmed folks in the villages near al-'Amarah marshland. Regime forces were soundly beaten in the fighting in al-'Amarah marshland a few days ago, when the cowards used military planes, helicopters, and heavy artillery in their attacks. The brutal raids, which started against innocent women, children, and elderly on 31 May, are continuing.

'Gunboats and Helicopters' Used

NC0306164092 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1600 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Text] The despised tyrant's forces are continuing their brutal attacks on the southern marshlands. Iraqi opposition forces report that the regime's fast gunboats and helicopters participated in an attack on al-Nasiriyah, adding that the dictatorial regime's forces fired approximately 100 shells on residential areas in al-Nasiriyah.

The sources said ferocious fighting is going on between the popular forces and those of the tyrant in the marshlands and that large-caliber guns can be heard.

Kurdistan Front Agrees to Rerun Elections 10 Oct

NC0306144892 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Text] According to reliable Kurdish sources, a recent meeting of Kurdistan Front parties in Salah al-Din agreed to rerun the elections to elect a new parliament and a single leader on 10 October.

DPK 'Strongly Denounces' Turkish Bombing

JN0206202792 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1440 GMT 2 Jun 92

[Text] Commenting on the new aggression by the Turkish Government's planes against Iraqi Kurdistan, a spokesman of our Democratic Party of Kurdistan [DPK] said that the DPK strongly denounces the air raids and expresses its indignation over the continuous Turkish bombing of civilian areas in Iraqi Kurdistan.

Our party spokesman added: Our party reiterates the futility of such air raids, which disturb stability and security on the border and undermine the trust between the Kurdish leadership in Iraqi Kurdistan and the Turkish Government. The spokesman noted that the Turkish air raids prevent the return of displaced people to their villages in the border areas. The raids also rob them of the opportunity to begin a fresh life and to establish peace and security in the region.

Commenting on recent Turkish air raids against certain areas in (Shidashav) and eastern (Sirwanah), our party spokesman said that the Turkish air attacks obliterate the many promises given to our party leadership by Turkish officials to the effect that Turkish air attacks and aggressions against Iraqi Kurdistan villages and residential areas would stop.

Invoking joint interests and neighborly ties, the spokesman appealed to the Turkish Government to stop such attacks. They will only increase the indignation of the Kurdish masses on both sides of the border and engender feelings of resentment against the Turkish

Government. The aerial attacks, he said, do not remedy the problem of security and stability along the border.

The DPK spokesman appealed to foreign governments and to international and humanitarian organizations to use their good offices with the Turkish Government to demand a halt to the air attacks on the people of Iraqi Kurdistan.

Arab Deportees From Kuwait Arrive in Safwan

JN3105095892 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 29 May 92 pp 1, 5

[Excerpt] Al-Basrah—A new batch of Iraqi and Arab citizens deported by the authorities of the rulers imposed on Kuwait arrived in the border area of Safwan in the al-Basrah Governorate last night. The Kuwaiti authorities had arrested them and subjected them to various kinds of torture and repression.

An official source in al-Basrah said that the competent Iraqi authorities in cooperation with the Red Cross group operating in the governorate received 16 deportees. Among them were five Jordanians, two Sudanese, one Palestinians, and a Filipino woman married to one of the Jordanian brothers. The rest were Iraqis.

AL-THAWRAH correspondent met with the deportees in Safwan. They stressed that they had been subjected to inhumane treatment and ugly practices by the henchmen of the rulers imposed on Kuwait. [passage omitted]

Deportees Tell of Torture, Atrocities

JN0106141792 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 30 May 92 p 1

[Text] Al-Basrah—A new batch of Arab citizens deported from Kuwait has arrived in the border area of Safwan. Among these deportees are 103 citizens who were held in the prisons of the regime imposed on Kuwait.

Deportee Hamid 'Umran Muhammad, who had both legs broken and his other limbs twisted, said that Diwan Prison is earmarked for prisoners arrested by the state security force. These prisoners are kept blindfolded throughout the period of their detention. These prisoners are not allowed to see daylight, a condition which has led to blindness among a number of Jordanian citizens who asked that their names not be mentioned since some of their relatives are still being held in Kuwaiti prisons.

Opposition to the regime has recently begun to become more active and to expand.

Army 'Deserters,' 'Defaulters' Return From Saudi

JN0206193692 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 2 Jun 92

[Excerpt] A group of Iraqis has benefited from the noble gesture made by leader President Saddam Husayn when he offered a general amnesty to the army deserters and defaulters held in Saudi territory. The group has returned home via the al-Jumaymah border police station.

In statements to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY, the returnees, who total 210 in number, expressed their great pride in and deep appreciation for leader President Saddam Husayn. They also valued the amnesty that has been granted to them—something which has allowed them to return home to contribute toward building the homeland and defending its sacred soil. [passage omitted]

Iran Reportedly Executes 25 Mashhad Protesters

JN0206151492 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1350 GMT 2 Jun 92

[Text] Paris, 2 Jun (INA)—The Iranian opposition organization of Mojahedin-e Khalq has affirmed that the Iranian regime has secretly executed 25 of the people detained following massive protest demonstrations in Mashhad.

In a statement issued in Paris today, the organization added that the regime is planning a new wave of executions during the next few days with the aim of creating an atmosphere of fear in the city.

The organization noted that Yazdi, chief of the judiciary of the mullahs' regime, and Nuri, interior minister of the regime, have unequivocally affirmed that the demonstrators will be dealt with and punished firmly and rapidly. In this context, Yazdi stated that experienced judges have been sent to the city of Mashhad on special missions. Furthermore, the Mojahedin-e Khalq statement said that Nuri, the interior minister of the Hashemi-Rafsanjani government, has openly threatened to carry out a rapid campaign of executions on the streets against the demonstrators.

The statement added: At the instruction of the regime's so-called Supreme Council for National Security, which is headed by Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the Guards 5th Division was recalled from the Iranian-Afghan border and dispatched to the city of Mashhad with the mission to control the city. This division has been put on alert.

In a related development, the organization said that despite the large-scale arrest campaign in Mashhad, extensive armed clashes have occurred between citizens and Guards personnel in the Baro court [placename as received] and Bawwabat Qushan [placename as received] in Mashhad. The clashes continued until late into the night. The shooting of firearms was heard clearly in vast areas of the city.

In addition, 25 military and government vehicles were set ablaze during these clashes. Tension remains high in the city. Meanwhile, several stores and shops have closed in protest against the regime's repressive practices, the statement concludes.

Commander: Air Force Capable of 'Protecting Skies'

JN0306160192 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 1 Jun 92 p 5

[Excerpts] Air Force Staff Lieutenant General Muzahim Sa'b Hasan, commander of the Air Force and Air Defense, has stated that the Air Force and Air Defense have managed to reorganize themselves in the aftermath of the treacherous 30-state aggression, drawing from the lessons learned during the great showdown, the eternal epic of the Mother of Battles, and the experience gained during that showdown. These lessons and experience, he noted, have been used to gain additional strength. Hence, we can confidently and proudly say that the Air Force is in good shape. It is capable of protecting Iraqi skies from any party that might attempt to undermine the country's security, sovereignty, and independence, he noted.

Lt. Gen. Muzahim Sa'b Hasan made these remarks in an exclusive statement to AL-QADISIYAH while attending a graduation ceremony held at the Air Force Institute for those who have successfully completed the eighth formation commanders course—the Mother of Battles course. The graduation of a large and excellent batch of commanders who have successfully completed this course at the Air Force Institute at this point in time, he added, provides further evidence of the Iraqi defiance forged by leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him.

The Air Force and Air Defense commander said that the Air Defense Institute was targeted during the treacherous 30-state aggression and was heavily damaged. Some of the institute's sections sustained 80 percent damage. However, he maintained, the resolve of the zealous officers and enlisted personnel affiliated with the institute has been behind the rebuilding of what the aggression destroyed in record time. What is even more pleasing, he added, is that the institute has not stopped at this point. Indeed, he asserted, it has developed its curricula and launched new sections. Therefore, he noted, we can say that what has happened at the Air Force Institute is indeed a breakthrough of which we are very proud. [passage omitted]

At the end of the ceremony, the management of the Air Force Institute granted Air Force Staff Lt. Gen. Muzahim Sa'b Hasan, commander of the Air Force and Air Defense, an honorary degree in Air Defense Sciences in appreciation of his interest in the institute and the constant support he has given to it in order to provide the Armed Forces with competent combatants willing to protect the homeland's skies from the deceitfulness of the treacherous parties. [passage omitted]

Iraq To Become 'Outstanding' Industrial Country

JN0306081992 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0627 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Jun (INA)—Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan, adviser to the president of the Republic and supervisor of the Military Industrialization Organization, has said that Iraq will in a short time become one of the outstanding industrial countries.

Speaking at the first seminar on investment of natural resources and search for alternatives, which is organized by the Iraqi Chemists Association, he said the Iraqi chemists are currently looking for local alternatives to many primary materials which Iraq used to import.

He said the Iraqi chemists will supply Iraq with major and important products that will serve industry, agriculture, and food production.

Lt. Gen. Hasan said the course pursued by the Iraqi chemists is important, and will very soon turn Iraq into a developed country in the chemical field.

Reconstruction of South Oil Company Under Way

JN0106103992 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 30 May 92 pp 8,2

[By Faruq Hamdi]

[Excerpt] Al-Basrah—The technical and engineering cadres of the South Oil Company have completed 85 percent of the plan to restore the primary projects that contribute toward providing potable water, industrial water, stations, and networks. Engineer Muhammad Musa al-Qarini has said that the cadres have completed reconstruction of electricity distribution stations and networks, and air conditioning and cooling units that are used in crude oil production. He noted that the target date for the plan's completion is the end of this year.

Al-Qarini added that the mechanical workshops in the company, which were subjected to looting and destruction during the chapter of treason and treachery, have repaired more than 90 percent of the manually-operated equipment and machines, which would improve production and maintenance. In addition, 82 electricity generators, 75 various machines, 41 air compressors, and 65 water pumps, have been repaired and made operational. He also said that more than 250 engines, machines, and electricity transformers at various company work sites have also been repaired and rendered operational. Moreover, a giant crane has been repaired to be used in restoring Mina' al-Bakr as well as the floating machinery. Dynamic balance has been conducted on rotating equipment by depending on the available capabilities. Al-Qarini explained that the company cadres also restored the supplementary oil pipelines in the damaged installation; thus, saving more than one-half million dollars in hard currency. [passage omitted]

'Famous' Professor—Allies Used 'Nuclear Bullets'

JN0306074892 Baghdad THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER in English 1 Jun 92 p 1

[By Dunya Mikhail]

[Excerpt] A famous German professor said the allied forces, in their war against Iraq, used nuclear bullets made of depleted uranium "which may cause cancer and other unknown diseases".

Professor Siegwart Gunther [name as published] told The Baghdad Observer that some 50 tonnes of these radioactive bullets are still in the battlefield, and "some Iraqi children are playing with these bullets as toys unaware of their dangerous effects". He called upon parents to prevent their children from playing with these bullets and asked the government to collect them aside.

Few months after the Gulf war, professor Gunther found a number of these bullets near a highway linking Baghdad to Amman, Jordan. "They were so heavy that I felt suspicious", he said.

The present spread in Iraq of such diseases as cancer, leukemia and an unknown disease which causes abdomen distention can be attributed partly to these bullets, he said. The health situation is yet aggravated because of the deficiency of vitamin A which exists in milk, meat, fish, eggs and butter whose prices are so high in Iraqi markets that poor families cannot afford because of the on-going economic sanctions.

Next week, professor Gunther will go to the southern province of al-Basrah to carry out further investigations on these radioactive uranium bullets which, he said, were used by allied forces as tactical nuclear weapons and by Iraqi children as toys. "The German technology is so developed, but the German army said that they never used such bullets," according to professor Gunther.

Professor Gunther said he had told the German media that the US army was equipped with high-tech munition made of nuclear wastes that could melt layers of the armours protecting Iraqi crews.

"Not coincidentally, those same tank-killing shells will probably turn the Iraqi desert into a permanently toxic hellhole for generations to come," he pointed out.

Depleted uranium penetrator bullets are about the size of a cigar and weigh upto eight pounds. When fired, the uranium bursts into flame and all the bullet liquifies searing through steel armour like a white hot phosphorescent flare. The heat of the shell causes any diesel fuel vapours in the enemy tank to explode, and thus the crew inside is burned alive, the professor investigated.

Known for his humanitarian activities professor Gunther has recently got permission to send some 40 Iraqi children to be treated at the Dresden University's Hospital in Germany. The selection of these children, who are victims of war, is being arranged in cooperation with the Iraqi Red Crescent Society, he said. [passage omitted]

Arens on 'Diplomatic Steps' To Curb Hizballah

TA0206125692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 2 Jun 92

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens said today that during the past several days diplomatic steps have been taken—with U.S. participation—to curb Hizballah activities. Speaking at the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Minister Arens said Israel had taken steps to make it perfectly clear to Syria that we will act to stop the Hizballah activity in south Lebanon, but that we would rather Damascus did that.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that senior Army officers reported to the committee that in May there were four serious training accidents in the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], in which four soldiers were killed. Some of the accidents happened due to a failure to observe IDF regulations.

The defense minister says he has some criticism of the Army in this respect. According to him, when exercises and drills are being planned, common sense must be used, and often serious precautionary measures should taken.

Iranian Intent To 'Sabotage' Peace Process Seen

TA0306155092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Text] Army sources in the north have said the declarations the Iranian defense minister made during his visit in Lebanon, in which he expressed his full support for Hizballah, indicate a continued Iranian intention to sabotage the peace process.

At the same time, senior officers believe that Syria understands the danger of a deteriorating situation in Lebanon and will take steps to prevent it. The senior officers told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the SLA [South Lebanese Army] will continue retaliating forcefully to any Hizballah attempt to carry out a terrorist attack.

Business Ties With General Electric Broken

TA0206182792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 2 Jun 92

[Text] Israel's defense establishment is suspending all its future contracts and ties with the General Electric company. Our correspondent in Washington reports that, following the decision of the U.S. Defense Department to suspend its working ties with the company in light of the Dotan affair, Israel—which is a beneficiary of U.S. military aid—must also sever its contacts with the company. Several hours ago, Moshe Kohanovsky, head of the Defense Ministry delegation in New York, ordered that all business ties with General Electric be severed.

Congressman's Charges Denied

TA0406104692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 4 Jun 92

[Text] Security sources have denied the claims of Congressman John Dingell in the Rami Dotan affair. The sources told reporter Karmela Menashe that the Israeli Government was the first to begin the investigation that uncovered the corruption in which Rami Dotan was involved and led to his arrest. Another 11 Air Force officers were dismissed or forced to resign. Another two officers are facing legal proceedings, and more trials are expected.

The sources also said the cooperation with the United States has been complete, with the government supplying Washington with much information and large quantities of documents and investigation material.

Dingell accused the Israeli Government of refusing to cooperate with the Americans and demanded steps against the government.

Action Not To Affect Air Force

TA0306163992 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Excerpt) IDF [Israel Defense Forces] sources say the decision to suspend ties with General Electric [GE] will not affect the activities of the Israel Air Force at this time. The sources add the Air Force has sufficient spare parts and, if a shortage arises, the U.S. Air Force will grant assistance. [passage omitted]

Defense Officials Discuss Reopening Gaza Strip

Signs of 'Economic Desperation'

TA0306165792 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 3 Jun 92 pp A1, A8

[Report by Eytan Rabin, Yosi Torpstein, and news agencies]

[Excerpts] Defense Minister Moshe Arens will today hold discussions with Major General Dani Rothschild, the coordinator of government activities in the territories, and with representatives of the police, the Shin Bet, and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] on whether to maintain the closure on the Gaza Strip, which today entered its tenth consecutive day.

Israeli employers and Gaza Strip businessmen have been putting a lot of pressure on the defense establishment to lift the closure, claiming that it is causing them heavy losses. On the other hand, defense sources have pointed out that the holiday of 'Id al-Adha, during which no one works for four days, falls within a few days. [It begins on 11 June.] Thus, the closure can be maintained until the end of the holiday without causing any special difficulties. [passage omitted]

UNRWA [UN Relief and Works Agency] yesterday *protested the prolonged closure of the Gaza Strip.* [passage omitted]

A defense establishment source noted that the defense establishment holds discussions about the closure every two days, and that so far it has been decided to maintain it because of an assessment that Gaza Strip residents will continue to carry out terrorist attacks in Israel. The source added that any decision to lift the closure will be implemented gradually, and those leaving for work in Israel will be carefully scrutinized.

The source pointed out that the closure could not be maintained for an extended period, but the number of attacks could be reduced by banning the entry of potential terrorists into the Dan District, as happened during the Gulf War. The defense establishment is examining various ways to prevent the entry of potential terrorists. A "profile" of the perpetrators of terrorist attacks has recently been prepared for that purpose.

The "profile" indicates that the major threat of potential violence comes from young men whose family members were injured or killed in the intifadah. Thus, for example, many of the perpetrators of recent terrorist attacks were seeking to avenge the deaths or injury of relatives or friends in the Temple Mount incident [October 1990]. The defense establishment has therefore decided to ban the entry to Israel of any Arab who has a family member who was injured in the intifadah.

[Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 3 June, in a report on page 2 by Roni Shaqed, reports that "one of the proposals currently being studied by the defense establishment is to allow Gaza Strip workers only into southern Israel, and not into the central part of the country at this stage." The report adds that "Arab sources yesterday said that one could already sense signs of economic desperation in the Gaza Strip, especially in light of the fact that since the Gulf War, almost no money is being transferred into the Strip by the PLO or foreign sources."]

Curfew on Dayr al-Balah Lifted

TA0406071792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 4 Jun 92

[Text] The Gaza Strip closure is entering its 11th day. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the security forces have lifted the curfew in the Dayr al-Balah area. Gaza Strip residents planning to reach Khan Yunus via Dayr al-Balah are requested to use alternative roads, because settlers are blocking a section of the Gaza Strip highway near Kfar Darom. Fearing clashes, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is preventing local Arabs from driving through that section of the road.

Gaza To Stay Sealed Through Weekend

TA0406085292

[Editorial Report] Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 4 June publishes on page A2 a report by Eytan Rabin, Shlomo Shamir, and news agencies reporting that "Defense Minister Moshe Arens has decided that the closure imposed on the Gaza Strip will continue today and through the weekend. It has been learned that security officials favor continuing the closure, but recommend that it be lifted gradually to reduce the economic and social pressure on the Gaza Strip residents. A defense establishment source told HA'ARETZ last night that the closure cannot be kept in effect for a long time and that there is no doubt that it will be lifted within the next few days, accompanied by strict restrictions."

Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 4 June publishes on page 1 an unattributed report that adds: "Defense Minister Moshe Arens and Foreign Minister David Levi are in favor of lifting the closure imposed on the Gaza Strip—which has been in effect for the past 11 days—but most of the Likud ministers oppose this move." "Among other things, the ministers fear that there may be a harsh reaction from the Jewish population when the Gaza laborers return to work and that this may hurt the Likud election campaign. It has been learned that security experts have expressed the fear that the closure might be extended until after the 23 June elections."

The HA'ARETZ report goes on to say: "Palestinian sources in the Gaza Strip reported that serious clashes with the Army took place in the al-Shati' refugee camp yesterday, in which 13 residents were injured. Clashes also took place in the Jabalyah and Khan Yunus refugee camps, in Gaza city, and in Dayr al-Balah. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has increased its patrols of the Gaza Strip out of the fear of an increase in attempts to attack Qatif Bloc residents.

"The representative of the IDF spokesman at the Southern Command reported yesterday that there were no incidents in the Gaza Strip and that no injuries to Arab residents were reported."

The report adds that body of a 70-year-old resident of the 'Askar refugee camp near Nabulus was found with bullet wounds and that Palestinian sources reported that he was killed by masked men "on suspicion of collaboration."

Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 4 June publishes on page 11 an ITIM report adding that two residents of the village of Biddiya in the Qalqilyah District were sentenced to 15 years in prison yesterday for attempting to murder another resident of their village "because they suspected he had collaborated with the security forces."

Settlers Move Into New Settlement in Gaza

TA0306112992 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 3 Jun 92 p A1

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[Text] The first eight families of settlers from Beersheba, Jerusalem, and the Qatif Bloc yesterday moved to the

new settlement of Netzarim Bet, near Gaza City. Seventeen mobile homes have been stationed at the site. The government has not yet approved settling the site. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] started carrying out motorized patrols near the new settlement to protect the settlers.

The settlers call the new location, which is the 17th settlement in the Gaza Strip, a "communal settlement." It was meant to be settled last week, but this was delayed because the settlers received a power generator for their use only this week. According to the plan, 52 additional families are to move in to the site. Religious institutions are planned in Netzarim Bet.

A source close to Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon said last week that for all intents and purposes, this is a settlement despite the fact that it is presented as "an expansion of Netzarim Alef."

Arab Killed, Soldier Wounded in Bethlehem Attack

TA0406074492 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0730 GMT 4 Jun 92

[Text] An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier was stabbed by an Arab in Manger Square in Bethlehem this morning. He suffered critical injuries. Our correspondent in the territories Udi Segal has the initial details:

The stabbing occurred about 30 minutes ago. A border policeman, who was patrolling Bethlehem's Manger Square around 1000 [0700 GMT] this morning, was stabbed by an Arab resident and incurred serious injuries. The Arab was shot and killed by soldiers who were on the scene. The IDF clamped a curfew on the area and closed it off. The wounded soldier was taken to the hospital.

Curfew on Bethlehem Area Lifted

TA0406104192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 4 Jun 92

[Text] The security forces have lifted the curfew clamped on Bethlehem's Manger Square following the stabbing of a border policeman. The policeman, Shim'on Ohayon, sustained medium injuries, and his life in not in danger. Fellow policemen shot and killed the assailant. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that Commander Jacques Dadon, the commander of the Border Police in Judaea and Samaria, who arrived at the site of the incident, praised his troops for their prompt reaction.

This afternoon, an Israeli woman was injured when the window of a bus in which she was riding was shattered by stones hurled at the vehicle in Hebron. The woman received medical treatment on the spot.

Two cars were set on fire in East Jerusalem this afternoon. Our police affairs Moshe Nussbaum adds that earlier today, four cars were torched in the Baq'a neighborhood in western Jerusalem. On Salah al-Din Street this afternoon, stones and an empty bottle were thrown and tires set on fire. Two suspects were apprehended.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1000 GMT on 4 June adds that "in rioting this morning in Qalqilyah, a border police officer was wounded in the head. He was taken to Me'ir Hospital in Kefar Sava."]

Policeman Acquitted in Bethlehem Resident's Death

TA0306184892 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 3 Jun 92 P A7

[ITIM report]

[Text] Eyal Ya'aqov, 24, a former border policeman, was convicted on his own admission of shooting a resident of the Balatah refugee camp in the back with a rubber bullet. He was sentenced to six months of community service and a two-year suspended sentence.

The charge sheet submitted to the Tel Aviv District Court states that on the morning of 17 December 1989, the defendant was part of an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] unit moving through the Balatah refugee camp near Nabulus. The patrol members were forced to chase stone throwers. At the same time, a resident of the camp, 'Awwad Maflah Abu-Saris, was innocently walking nearby. Eyal Ya'aqov shot a rubber bullet at him from 10 meters away and hit him in the back. 'Awwad required medical attention.

[Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 3 June in a report by Ruti Zuta on page 11 reports: "Border policeman Ya'aqov Kalif, who was accused of killing an Arab resident of Bethlehem, was cleared of all charges in the Jerusalem District Court on 1 June. The shooting was filmed by ABC cameraman Alon Burnstein, and the videotape was shown in court. Judge Rut Or ruled that there was doubt as to whether the dead man, Fahdi al-Zabakli, was indeed killed by the bullet fired by the defendant, and therefore she did not examine the issue of whether Kalif had violated the Army's rules of engagement."]

Undercover Activities in Territories Reviewed

TA0306201192 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Excerpts] Betzelem, the information center for human rights in the territories, today issued its report on the activities of the special undercover units. It states that those units have stepped up their activity in the last few months, as part of what is described as an aggressive policy against Palestinians wanted by the security forces. The report claims the number of people killed by the undercover units increased during this period. In response, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman says that the undercover units do not follow different or special rules of engagement, and that those rules are examined by the military advocate general and the state attorney. Our correspondents Amir Hay and Beni Liss report:

[Begin recording] [Hay] [passage omitted] According to the Betzelem report, the special units use lethal weapons only; that is, live ammunition. In many cases, no serious effort is made to arrest the wanted men before shooting them. The report adds that many of the men killed were shot from close range and were hit in the upper part of their body. In the past few months the number of fatalities who were armed at the time of the encounter increased, but, still, half of them were unarmed. [passage omitted]

[IDF Spokesman Brigadier General Ilan Tal] I am pleased that, unlike early drafts, the final version of the report accepts the IDF's argument that there is no official policy of eliminating wanted men in the field. At the same time, unfortunately, Betzelem points out that such a phenomenon is evident in the field. I would like to state in the most unequivocal and categorical manner that the IDF does not uphold and will never uphold a policy—or a reality—of doing away with wanted men. The IDF is sensitive to human life, be it Jewish or Arab, no less than anybody else.

[Liss] Do the undercover units receive different orders on opening fire than other units operating in the area?

[Tal] The IDF's rules of engagement apply to all IDF units, be they special undercover units or ordinary units. Those rules are meticulously approved by the state attorney and the military advocate general. IDF soldiers in all units are ordered to abide by them, and no soldier or officer has the authority to deviate one iota from them.

We studiously select our best soldiers and youngsters for the undercover and special units. Those soldiers are highly motivated and have a high sense of responsibility. They are capable of exercising good judgment, and they pull the trigger only when they have no other choice. [end recording]

Betzelem: Units 'Immoral, Illegal'

TA0406070092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 4 Jun 92

[Text] The human rights group Betzelem has issued a report on the Army's special undercover units operating in the territories. Betzelem maintained that in many cases, the special units open fire in situations which are not life threatening. Reporter Mark Weiss has more details on the Betzelem report:

[Begin Weiss recording] According to Betzelem, even if there is no clear-cut shoot-to-kill policy by the special units, an atmosphere has been created which justifies fatal shootings by the undercover units, and particularly against Palestinians on the run from the security forces. Betzelem criticizes the situation as immoral and illegal.

The report claims that until April this year, 86 Palestinians have been killed by the special units: 56 in Judaea and Samaria and 30 in Gaza. Twenty-eight of those killed were wanted by the security forces, and only 27 were armed. The report also claims that 21 of the victims were attempting to escape when they were shot and killed. During the first four months of this year alone, 19 Arab residents of the territories have been shot and killed by the special units.

The human rights group maintained that in the majority of cases, it would have been possible to capture the suspect without killing him. Most of those killed were shot a number of times at short range in the upper part of the body.

And finally, the report claims that five of those killed were apparently killed in error by the special units. [end recording]

The Army has reiterated that its undercover units in the territories do not operate a shoot-to-kill policy against wanted terrorists. Only a small number of terrorists have been killed rather than captured in clashes with the Army, says the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman. Details about Army undercover operations and policy are given in a booklet the IDF has issued in response to a survey of its activities by the Betzelem organization. More from Alan Ben-'Ami:

[Begin Ben-'Ami recording] The IDF rebuffs criticism and claims from the Betzelem organization in a detailed 20-page booklet issued as a response to a Betzelem report on IDF undercover units which is now being made public. According to the IDF, although the Betzelem report is voluminous, a large part of the incidents cited are attributed to vague, anonymous sources, often rumors, or stories in the media.

The Army says the Betzelem assumption that it is always possible to apprehend wanted fugitives without the use of firearms is not founded on reality. It ignores the dangers that soldiers face from wanted men ready to shoot first in order to escape capture. The booklet lists a string of incidents in which soldiers were killed or wounded by armed terrorists, and yet it says: During the last six months, when greater emphasis was given to operations by special units, only 18 terrorists were killed, while 750 were captured. Among the weapons found in their possession were guns, pistols, firebombs, and explosive devices.

The IDF reiterates that soldiers may only use their firearms when in immediate life-threatening situations, or when a person seeks to evade arrest. The emphasis is on disabling, not killing. And under no circumstances does the IDF have a policy of intentional killing. Every case involving deviations or fatalities is investigated. If any are found to be unjustified, then legal measures are taken against the offenders.

As to the Betzelem claims that legal proceedings were instituted in only two of 10 cases it cites in its report, the IDF says this is wrong and misleading. Police investigation of five cases has not yet been completed. What of the remaining five? Legal proceedings in two of the five have been instituted by the advocate general. There has

never been, nor will there ever be an IDF policy of intentional killing of wanted fugitives, says the military spokesman. And, Betzelem's report ignores the prevailing situation in an area in which armed hard-core terrorists, who do not adhere to any code of law, have engaged in terror attacks against Israeli civilians, IDF troops, and the local Arab population. [end recording]

Al-Husayni, Notables To Visit 'Arafat in Amman

TA0306112092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Text] Faysal al-Husayni and several Palestinian notables from East Jerusalem and the territories left this morning for Amman to visit Yasir 'Arafat, who is hospitalized in Amman. Our correspondent Moti Amir adds that this report has been confirmed by al-Husayni's confidants. They further said that al-Husayni was accompanied by Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, a member of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks.

'Legal Aspects' To Be Probed

TA0406102792 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 4 Jun 92 p 8

[Report by Yoram Binur and Aharon Barne'a]

[Excerpt] "Allegedly, this is a violation of the law, but it is also a visit to the sick." This was the reaction of a senior government source last night to the visit the two Palestinian leaders, Faysal al-Husayni and Sa'ib 'Urayqat, paid to recuperating PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat. The source said he would hesitate before turning this into a political issue.

Ehud Gol, the prime minister's spokesman, said yesterday that the state attorney will look into the legal aspects of the trip and whether a complaint should be filed with the police.

According to Palestinian sources, the open visit is an indication of Israel's tacit agreement to meetings between Palestinians from the territories and PLO men. According to them, the U.S. auspices provide the Palestinian delegation with political immunity. [passage omitted]

Kahana Hay Disqualified From Knesset Elections

TA0306192792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Text] A short while ago, the Central Elections Committee disqualified the Kahana Hay Movement from taking part in the 13th Knesset elections. The decision to disqualify the movement was passed by a vote of 26 to five, with two committee members abstaining. Justice Halima did not take part in the voting.

Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that the Kahana Hay Movement was disqualified in accordance with Clause 7A of the Basic Law—The Knesset: it was established that the party incites racism and denies Israel's democratic nature.

Kakh has met the technical requirements for participation in the elections, but it is now awaiting the High Court of Justice ruling on its appeal against its disqualification on the basis of Clause 7A last week.

Our correspondent notes that the committee deliberations are still underway. So far three lists have been endorsed: Charlie Biton's Hatiqva; Abba Gefen's Yad Beyad, Pensioners and Olim; and the taxi drivers' 'Al Galgalim.

Husayn Visits 'Arafat, Reassured on Health

JN0306181292 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn this afternoon visited Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, to reassure himself about the Palestinian leader's health following the successful surgery he underwent at the al-Husayn Medical Center on Monday.

Dr. 'Adil al-Shuraydah, head of the Jordanian medical team supervising Mr. 'Arafat, reassured his majesty about the health of the Palestinian president, who is expected to leave the hospital in the next two or three days.

After the visit, His Majesty King Husayn spoke to journalists.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Your Majesty, how do you assess the Palestinian president's health at the present time, and why have journalists not been allowed to visit him? Are there any objections to this?

[Husayn] I believe that he spoke to Radio Monte Carlo over the telephone today. However, I think, I know how eager you are to meet with him. But I think that he also has the right, after all these long years of work and hardship and after the difficult times he has seen, including the plane accident which he, thank God, escaped safely, and the consequences which have made him need this kind of treatment; I think he has the right and he needs some rest. He is a man after all. It is only a matter of time—a very short time—and he will, God willing, meet with you. You will then have comprehensive meetings which will satisfy you completely.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, has any other Arab leader telephoned other than those who did so yesterday?

[Husayn] Yesterday, I personally called the brothers in Yemen, Libya, Tunisia, and Syria. These were the countries that I felt I had to assure about the health of my dear brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat]. We have not held any other contacts thus far, and no one has called me. [end recording]

A number of Palestinian figures visited Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat today. They included Muhammad Milhim, former PLO Executive Committee member, Faysal al-Husayni, and Sa'ib 'Urayqat. [video shows the king leaving the hospital and speaking to reporters, flanked by the Palestinian ambassador in Amman; Dr. Fathi 'Arafat, Yasir 'Arafat's brother and head of the Palestinian Red Crescent Society; and by Jordanian Army doctors. Clip shows Palestinian officials arriving at the hospital, including Suha al-Tawil, who reportedly was married to 'Arafat earlier this year. The video shows no pictures of 'Arafat.]

Moroccan King Inquires About 'Arafat

JN0306191992 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Text] In a telephone call with the Moroccan monarch, King Hassan II, who inquired about Mr. 'Arafat, his majesty the king told him that the Palestinian leader was well after the operation and that he would leave hospital in the next few days.

His majesty also congratulated King Hassan II on his newly born granddaughter.

Russia Invites Parliamentary Delegation for Visit

JN0406070992 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Text] Senate President Ahmad al-Lawzi has received a message from Russian Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov. The message expresses appreciation for the policy of His Majesty King Husayn and notes Jordan's important role in bringing a just peace to the Middle East.

House of Representatives Speaker 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat also received a similar message. The messages, delivered by the ambassador of the Russian Federation in Amman, invite a Jordanian parliament delegation to visit Russia.

Paper 'Outraged' By French Loans to Israel

JN3105113292 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 31 May 92 p 4

[Editorial: "France's Wrong Move"]

[Text] At the height of the Gulf crisis, the Arab World, especially the Maghreb countries pleaded with France to show some difference with the American administration in order to avoid armed conflict between the West and Iraq. But France stood firmly on the side of the U.S. despite much criticism both inside the country and abroad. The French government told its Arab friends in the Maghreb union that France chose to stand on the side of the so-called allies only to later be able to sit on the negotiating table and influence the quest for peace in the region.

Now that the peace process has taken on some life, the French found it fit to defy their super American ally by granting Israel $500 million in loan guarantees. The U.S., the strategic ally of Israel, it is recalled, has denied the Jewish state $10 billion in guarantees because of Israeli defiance of the subject of settlements in the occupied Arab territories.

We can only look at this French "gesture" towards intransigent Israel as one way to sabotage the ongoing peace process and undermine U.S. efforts to ensure progress in the search for peace. The Israeli minister for trade and industry, Moshe Nisim, used the opportunity to criticise the U.S. for conditioning its approval of the

loan guarantees to the halting of settlement buildings. "This is an example of the principle that aid for humanitarian purposes should not be mixed with political goals," Nisim was quoted as saying.

Seen against the dead certainty that the French gesture will free Israel to channel other funds to settlement activities in the occupied territories while using the French loan guarantees within the limitations they carry, there is little doubt that Nisim and the hardline Israeli establishment have enough to thank Paris for.

We do not object to the French extending all possible help to immigrants, including giving them the right to migrate to France itself, for example. But we feel outraged that the French should enable Yitzhak Shamir's Likud government to divert funds from its own budget into settlement activity in the occupied Arab territories. The French move is also ill-timed since it improves the standing of the radical Likud alliance in the Israeli elections, which are only three weeks away.

Whether sinister or naive, the French move will surely anger many Arab governments, and will add to the Arab masses' mistrust of the intentions of the French administration.

Israeli Government's 'Nervous Behavior' Noted

JN0106094192 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 1 Jun 92 pp 1, 17

[Editorial: "The Shamir Government Loses Nerve"]

[Text] We were certainly not surprised by the escalating Israeli attacks on southern Lebanon and the al-Biqa' valley to provoke Syria and Lebanon, by Israel's fabricated, false information about a fedayeen infiltration through the Jordanian borders, and by its attempts to escalate tension with the bordering Arab countries and to create an atmosphere of war in the region.

It was necessary for the Shamir government, which faces a serious decline in its popularity inside Israel on the one hand, and international isolation due to its opposition to the peace process on the other, to resort to some sort of action to reshuffle cards or even turn things upside down, and to create new facts by which the peace process would become a thing of the past.

The Shamir government is mainly concerned with gaining votes in favor of the Likud. Its major concern is to disrupt the peace process, and if possible, to completely thwart it.

Therefore, Shamir, Arens, and Sharon are escalating their fiery statements that oppose the principles and bases of the peace process. They stress their refusal to relinquish the unity of Jerusalem, and to withdrawal from even one inch of the occupied Arab territories. They are also deliberately escalating their barbaric attacks on southern Lebanon and the al-Biqa' where the Syrian forces are stationed. Moreover, they threaten to use force against the bordering Arab states.

In addition, they are escalating their terrorist actions in the occupied territories, exciting the sentiments of the fanatic Zionists, and harping the tunes of extremism to regain the votes they had lost. They are seeking to explode the security situation prior to the Amman conference of the foreign ministers of the Arab states bordering Israel.

It seems that their differences with the U.S. Administration over settlement issues and the return of Palestinian refugees to their homes are reflected in their nervous behavior. Moreover, their sharp differences with the European Community have aggravated their nervousness. Hence, they began accusing Syria of supporting the Lebanese resistance and supplying it with katyushas that are fired at settlements in the north of occupied Palestine, and fabricating lies about a fedayeen infiltration through the Jordanian borders to carry out military operations in Israel.

It is worth noting that Jordan and the Palestinians have repeatedly stressed that they chose to participate in the peace process out of their firm belief in the need not to lose the current peace opportunity, which could be the last. His Majesty King Husayn's talks with 'Arafat yesterday clearly confirmed this stance. Moreover, Jordan is not a guard to protect Israel's security.

As the responsible Jordanian source has said, the borders of several countries converge at the Gulf of Aqaba, and it is not possible to decisively determine the route those fedayeen took to enter the occupied territories. Moreover, there is no proof that any fedayeen infiltrated through the Jordanian territories. Thus, the Israeli accusations are irrelevant and unjustified.

Iraq To 'Rise Again' Despite U.S. 'Barbarism'

JN0306092192 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 3 Jun 92 pp 1, 27

[Editorial: "The Defeated Hatred"]

[Text] The United States has completed destruction of the Iraqi al-Athir scientific complex. This action reminds the Arabs in particular and humanity in general of what the Mongols did when they invaded Iraq. The first thing they did was to destroy the irrigation networks that made this country a model of food self-sufficiency. These networks were evidence of the Iraqi scientific genius that provoked the Mongol's barbarism and led them to commit the crime of destruction.

What the United States did and has continued to do since the first Western air raid on the Iraqi people was aimed at destroying all the Iraqi brothers' achievements in the field of knowledge and scientific progress out of hatred for this nation. The most serious chapter of plotting against this nation is thus represented in depriving this nation of all this progress and knowledge.

Iraq is targeted because it, unlike all other oil-rich brothers, has turned the abundant wealth that gushed out of its land into a means of construction rather than destruction, a means of progress rather than backwardness, and a means of building rather than spending on everything that is hostile to Arabs and Arabism, Islam and Muslims. It is also targeted because the Iraqi brothers have opposed all that the enemies have planned for the Arab oil producers and defied these producers' decision to act merely as guards sleeping by the oil fields. As soon as these guards wake up, they will ride their cars and planes aimlessly. This is the oil pattern which is respected and appreciated by the West. No reference is made to their antagonization of democracy, contempt of human rights, or readiness to humiliate the homeland provided that this humiliation does not harm the oil wells.

Completing destruction of the Iraqi al-Athir scientific complex represents the U.S. barbarism's completion of dealing a severe and painful blow to the Arabs' determination to enter this age. It was not a fatal blow to this determination because the allies, who destroyed everything in Germany, found themselves in less than five decades facing, in real horror, the German giant with its pride that had not been defeated by destruction and with its economic power that threatens all the allies. The allies, who did not hesitate to strike Japan with atomic bombs, are now in less than five decades begging from this Japanese giant whose deep roots deserve respect and whose scientific and economic achievements ridicule the U.S. and Western economy that is trapped in its cage that contains only the brothers' oil.

What happened to Iraq and all its homeland, and to the Iraqis and their entire nation was but another attempt to slaughter this nation. The results of this attempt will be similar to the several previous attempts. Iraq will rise strong again, its glorious nation will rise again, and we will chase all its enemies, plotters, and those who imagine that salvation comes through forging alliances with those who seek to slaughter it.

Al-Hirawi Says Israeli Forces 'Should Pull Out'

NC0406113692 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 4 Jun 92

[Text] In an interview with BBC radio, President Ilyas al-Hirawi said that Lebanon no longer wants to get advice from everyone—especially Israeli officials—and stated that the south is Lebanon's responsibility. Al-Hirawi added: I confirm that no operations have been carried out against Israel or any other group in areas where the Lebanese Army is deployed. How can Lebanon, he wondered—which has no troops in the area—be held responsible for people who are resisting occupation? This is merely an excuse, he said, and we no longer need to hear about it from Israel. If Israel wants to be safe from attacks by Lebanese, it should pull out of Lebanese territory, he said, adding: To all those who want us to end Hizballah's actions, and those of other groups, I remind you that each and every nation has a right to liberate their land. How can we be expected to curb an oppressed Lebanese people whose houses are being destroyed, whose property is being set on fire, and whose sons are killed? How can Israel, which attacks the areas with aircraft and long-range artillery, ask us to do such a thing?

Frankly, he added, I think that once the Israeli elections are over, Israel will stop its aggression against Lebanon. He said that the Israeli Navy is monitoring the Lebanese coast from Sidon to al-Naqurah and that the Israeli Air Force is monitoring its airspace. It is Israeli policy, al-Hirawi said, to maintain the explosive situation in the south so Israel can claim it is being attacked.

The president was asked about Lebanese claims that the Israeli Government is initiating military operations in the south and blaming the resistance as a pretext to launch response operations. Al-Hirawi said: I have made these accusations, and I have the proof; but as long as we are involved in the peace process and the peace conference, I cannot reveal this evidence, because I do not want to damage the process.

The president reiterated Lebanon's position that when the south is liberated, Lebanon will go to the multilateral negotiations.

Further Reportage on Israeli Offensive in South

Al-Salihani Area Shelled

NC0406081692 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 4 Jun 92

[Text] The areas adjacent to the occupied border strip remain tense. This morning, the occupation forces used large-caliber artillery to shell the al-Salihani area, in the western sector of the border strip, while Israeli helicopters strafed the area.

Israeli aircraft are overflying the south, particularly Sidon, and are venturing as far as the Beirut area.

PFLP-GC Base Attacked

NC0406112092 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1214 GMT 4 Jun 92

[Text] This just in from the news desk: Reports indicate that Israeli warplanes executed air raids on the al-Rashidiyah camp near Tyre a short time after 1300 today. Israeli helicopters fired four air-to-ground missiles at a base belonging to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Commanad [PFLP-GC]. Reports indicate that a a number of people were (?killed) or injured in the raids.

Cabinet Holds First Meeting; Samahah Comments

NC0306193092 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1740 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Statement by Information Minister Michel Samahah, followed by his responses to questions by unidentified correspondents, after the Cabinet's first ordinary meeting in Beirut on 3 June—recorded]

[Text] In a session presided over by his excellency the president and attended by the prime minister and other ministers, the Cabinet held its first ordinary meeting. His excellency the president congratulated those attending for gaining the confidence of the Chamber of Deputies. The president noted the great confidence placed in the government by the deputies and what this will mean to the government in terms of its responsibilities—particularly in economic affairs—and, generally, in the south, especially security there and the repeated Israeli aggressions against it. The president stressed the need for quick action to settle issues over which there was controversy. He stated that once the government gains the Chamber of Deputies' confidence, it must work fast, seriously, and responsibly to strengthen the citizens' confidence and confidence in Lebanon.

The prime minister thanked the president for congratulating the government, saying that the Chamber's confidence is strong, giving the government support and power to conduct its responsibilities, particularly in tackling the economic situation, strengthening the southern citizens' steadfastness on their land, and following up the handling of the situation in the south.

After discussion, the Cabinet approved most of the items on its agenda. It decided to ask the foreign minister to request the foreign ministers of cordon states—who will meet in Amman on Saturday—to adopt Lebanon's call for a meeting of Arab League Council foreign ministers, discuss the repeated Israeli aggressions against southern Lebanon and Western al-Biqa', and secure the necessary backing for our steadfast folk there, because defending and supporting the south and western al-Biqa' is a comprehensive Arab responsiblity.

[Correspondent] Minister, do you intend to lay down a working program to tackle the important issues, particularly those in which the president said we suffer and which require some attention?

[Samahah] Certainly. This was one of the subjects debated by Cabinet members.

[Correspondent] Minister, did the Cabinet decide anything about the dollar, which has been rising since the government was formed until today?
[Samahah] The dollar is one of the primary economic subjects and is part of the economic situation, which the Cabinet and the competent ministers are studying to find the appropriate remedies.

[Correspondent] Minister, what did you mean by issues over which there was controversy in the past?
[Samahah] For now, I have nothing more to add to my statement.

[Correspondent] Minister, the Lebanese state was given a choice between the legitimate authority or that of the militias in the south; did you discuss this at the Cabinet meeting?
[Samahah] I abide by my statement.

Ja'ja' Nominates Self for Phalangist Leadership

NC0306112192 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Text] Lebanese Forces commander Samir Ja'ja' nominated himself for the leadership of the Phalangist Party. He called for solidarity and pledged to support the national reconciliation document, which is a good way for Lebanon to regain its sovereignty and independence and preserve its system. Dr. Ja'ja' reiterated his concern about implementing the document.

He said that the lean years affected the size and abilities of the party. He said: We wish to be the vanguards of progress and renewal.

Further on Visit by Iran's Foreign Minister

Velayati Cites Combatants' Morale

LD0306130592 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati by unidentified correspondent in Beirut on 3 June—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] Mr. Velayati, your visit to Lebanon is apparently your first to that country. What objectives are you following in this visit?
[Velayati] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate. My visit is in response to an invitation by His Excellency Faris Buwayz, the honorable foreign minister of Lebanon. In fact, it returns his visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran last year. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Mr. Velayati, you arrived in Lebanon at a time when the Zionist attacks have greatly intensified. How do you assess the morale of the Lebanese Muslims and combatant groups?

[Velayati] One of the reasons I chose this particular time is that very same point to which you just now referred: intensification of pressure by the Zionists and their supporters against the people of Lebanon. I must say that both the officials and the people—those who lead the nationalist Islamic struggles of Lebanon—enjoy a high degree of morale. Before this interview, I had a somewhat lengthy meeting with the leaders of Lebanon's various Islamic and ethnic groups and organizations. I must say that it was a unique assembly of the heads of various groups who met at the embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Lebanon. On the basis of what I inferred from statements by those high-ranking leaders of Lebanon's groups and organizations, I can say that all of them are determined to continue their resistance.

Of course, resistance is not confined to any particular group, though all of them admit that at present Hizballah is the focal point of struggle against the Zionist regime. But in any case a number of these groups are now actually on the scene supporting the Hizballah. And the remainder of the groups have declared their commitment to support the Islamic and nationalist resistance which is under way in Lebanon.

Cites Support for Resistance

NC0306190292 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati asserted that Iran supports the Lebanese people and resistance in the south. He noted that this support is a duty of Iran, which spares nothing to strengthen ties between the Lebanese and Iranian peoples.

Velayati was speaking at a ceremony at the Iranian Embassy this afternoon, marking the third anniversary of Imam Khomeyni's death; attending were ministers Walid Junblatt and Zaki Mazbudi, deputies, and political, spiritual, and party figures. Velayati said:

[Begin Velayati recording] The Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic revolution movement view as a fundamental task the support of the Lebanese and Palestinian people, particularly the deprived and oppressed citizens and resistance men in southern Lebanon and western al-Biqa', and support for this people in defending the legitimate right to end the Zionist occupation. As in the past, the Islamic republic spares nothing of its capabilities and resources to enhance this struggle and the (?capabilities) of the Lebanese and Palestinian people in facing numerous domestic and foreign difficulties and problems. [end recording]

Minister Walid Junblatt called for pursuing the struggle to liberate the south, saying:

[Begin Junblatt recording] Imam Khomeyni's revolution represents a permanent stronghold for the liberation movements, the revolution of the stones [reference to the

Palestinian intifadah], the nationalist and Islamic resistance, and Syria, which refuses to surrender amid pressures and negotiations that move from one capital to another. Welcome to the friend, Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, on this noble occasion representing Imam Khomeyni's revolution. Welcoming him in Arab and steadfast Lebanon is important and crucial, historically, for the Arabs and Muslims. We reject the infighting of heroic mujahidin in Afghanistan, are surprised by and denounce the Muslims' massacre in Sarajevo and Bosnia-Hercegovina, and insist on continuing the struggle to liberate the south and make Lebanon Arabic. [end recording]

Hizballah Secretary General Shaykh Hasan Nasrallah said resistance is not exclusive. He noted that Israel wants to obtain an agreement resembling the 17 May Accord [reference to an old, aborted accord between Israel and Lebanon] and wants to drive Syria out of Lebanon.

[Begin Nasrallah recording] Israel wants a Lebanese Government that would sign a separate and (?humiliating) truce with Israel, at the least one which is similar to the 17 May Accord. Israel does not want the resistance to face the occupation and wants the Syrian forces to withdraw, leaving Israel to bring back the state of anarchy, sedition, and civil war and impose on the Lebanese people a president from among its agents.

Responding to pressure leads to sliding into a deep, dark abyss. We call for (?steadfastness), not bowing to any pressure, exercising our kinfolk's natural right to resistance and to preserving (?honor). We urge the Lebanese state to act at the level of the greatness and value of this people and their honest sons. We also urge the Lebanese state to deal with the south and western al-Biqa' with a human mentality and clear nationalism, free of sectarian and regional considerations. [end recording]

'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah said resistance is a movement designed to apply al-Ta'if Accord, even by those who do not recognize it, by working toward liberating the south.

[Begin Fadlallah recording] The Lebanese accepted the al-Ta'if Accord, because it ended the war, not because they loved it. Do we understand that al-Ta'if Accord—born out of a U.S. decision, with an Arab turban and a Lebanese fez—was meant to fight the resistance on the grounds that resistance represents a certain phenomenon? Is this how it is viewed inside Lebanon? Is resistance an internal Lebanese issue? If only the protagonists of the al-Ta'if Accord understood it. Resistance is a movement to apply al-Ta'if, even by those who do not recognize it. [end recording]

Supports Releasing German Hostages

NC0306193992 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Text] Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati held a news conference shortly after 2130 this evening at the Park Hotel in Shtawrah. He stated that the topic of the hour in Lebanon could be summed up in the raids launched by the Zionist enemy against our steadfast folk in the south. Velayati said that he believed the people would continue resistance in the face of these savage raids.

Velayati said: We support releasing hostages, regardless of their nationalities, including the two German hostages and the Iranian hostages, as soon as possible.

Ministers Faris Buwayz and 'Ali Akbar Velayati were scheduled to hold a joint news conference in Shtawrah at 1900 this evening, but the Iranian minister did not arrive in Shtawrah until 2030. Minister Buwayz had to leave for other engagements.

Velayati went to the township of al-Nabi Shit in al-Biqa' to attend a large ceremony hosted by Hizballah.

Gives 'Assurance' To Calm Situation

NC0406052592 Paris AFP in English 2048 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Excerpts] Beirut, June 3 (AFP)—Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati has given a private assurance that he would help to calm the situation in south Lebanon, a Lebanese government source said Wednesday.

But in public, the visiting envoy reiterated Tehran's support for the anti-Israeli resistance in the south.

Velayati also told reporters that Syria shared Iran's views and that both would continue to support "the resistance of the Lebanese people against the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon, within our means."

But government sources said Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, who opposes an intensification in anti-Israeli operations, had asked Velayati to encourage Hizballah to coordinate its policies with those of the state.

The Iranian envoy had in response "agreed to use his influence over Hizballah to persuade it to calm the situation in south Lebanon," a source told AFP, declining to be named. [passage omitted]

After separate talks with Velayati, the Hizballah leader Shaykh Hasan Nasrallah called on the Lebanese Government "not to bow to American pressure" and to insist on the defence of its territory.

"The call from America for disarming the resistance is just the beginning and not the end of the concessions that it seeks in favour of Zionist interests," he said.

On the two Germans being held hostage in Lebanon, government sources here quoted Velayati as saying his country was seriously working for their release but he stressed that it wanted to shun publicity.

Other sources familiar with the hostage affair said Iran did not want the release of Heinrich Struebig and Thomas Kemptner to follow the foreign minister's visit too closely.

German public television ARD reported that the last Western hostages would be freed within three days.

Departs for Syria

LD0306222192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Report from Beirut by unidentified Voice and Vision Correspondent]

[Excerpts] Our country's foreign minister, Mr. Velayati, left Beirut for Tehran last night [3 June] after completing an official two-day visit to Lebanon. Before departing Lebanon, he attended a ceremony marking the third anniversary of the demise of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, God's benediction be upon him. [passage omitted]

Mr. Velayati and Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz also attended a news conferece, which was held at the Park Hotel in the city of Shtawrah, near the border between Lebanon and Syria. During the news conference, Mr. Velayati termed as useful his meetings with Lebanon's officials, political and religious personalities. He said: During this visit—which occurred during the particular and critical situation that currently exists in Lebanon—we conveyed to the people and officials of Lebanon the Islamic Republic of Iran's decisive support for the Lebanese people's resistance against the continuing aggressions of the Zionist regime.

Mr. Faris Buwayz also termed Mr. Velayati's visit to Lebanon as very significant and added: We attach particular importance to our relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran, a country that plays a significant and fundamental role in the region and the world. During the visit, we held useful and constructive talks with Mr. Velayati about mutual ties, the Zionist regime's aggressions against southern Lebanon, and methods of support for the people of Lebanon's resistance against the Zionist aggressors.

Mr. Velayati and the accompanying delegation then departed Lebanon for Syria. Mr. Faris Buwayz saw them off. They are to leave Damascus for Tehran this morning [4 June]. [passage omitted]

Further on Visit by Egyptian President Mubarak

Confers With President al-Asad

JN0306174292 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1657 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Excerpts] Damascus, 3 Jun (SANA)—Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak arrived in Damascus at 1100 today on a working visit to Syria. [passage omitted]

Both presidents held a meeting as soon as they arrived at the People's Palace. [passage omitted]

Following this expanded meeting, both presidents held a closed session. Their talks focused on the peace process, its developments, and the positions adopted by the participating parties.

Both presidents undertook a comprehensive review of the Arab situation, as well as ways to improve it and to firmly establish Arab solidarity in order to face the dangers threatening the Arab nation. They also discussed the possibility of holding a conference composed of the leaders of the eight signatory countries to the Damascus Declaration. [passage omitted]

Holds News Conference

JN0306190992 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1735 GMT 3 Jun 92

[News conference by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak "at the conclusion of their talks" in Damascus on 3 June—recorded]

[Text] [al-Asad] I welcome President Husni Mubarak in his own country, Syria, and also in his own city, Damascus. Although our meetings are not separated by long periods of time, as we have indicated, we still want these times to be shorter. All Syrian citizens agree with me in this feeling. The feelings we harbor are not only ones of sympathy and unity; they are also ones of deep love, deep sincerity, and sentiments of brotherhood between Syria and Egypt.

We have always reiterated—and we are never tired of doing so since this expresses our true conscience and history—that developments, in terms of their progress and results, have always been contingent on Egypt and Syria, on their cooperation and ability to make sacrifices both for the sake of their own interests and for those of the entire Arab nation. This has been true in the past and remains true today.

Of course, you expect that we—we who are Arab citizens like yourselves even if we do assume the highest responsibility—have discussed what we consider to be at the top of our worries. Our worries are numerous and not limited. The time available has not been ample enough to discuss them all. But we discussed what we regard to be the more important worries at this stage. We have always been in agreement. We exchanged views and concepts, but eventually—because we seek what is best and the most useful for the Arab nation—we reached agreement on what we discussed.

I do not want to answer questions that you probably have at the back of your minds. I again welcome my brother President Mubarak. I also welcome you, especially the journalists from what at one time was the southern part of the United Arab Republic from the sisterly Arab Egypt. [laughter followed by applause] This has always been Egypt's position and will continue to be so. We are undoubtedly proud of Egypt.

[Mubarak] I thank my brother, the president, for his praise of Egypt. I would like to explain that contacts between Syria and Egypt have always existed even when there was estrangement. We have strong relations. We waged wars together, and this is cooperation at its best in terms of fateful issues.

I am happy to meet with my brother, President Hafiz al-Asad, in Damascus. I thank him for granting us this opportunity. We hope that such meetings will take place within shorter periods of time. But circumstances sometimes prevent this. We would like to convene such meetings with less time between them, especially when the need arises. We will not hesitate to do so. It will be an opportunity to exchange views about various issues—Arab and international—and all issues of concern to the region.

Thank you, Mr. President.

[Unidentified Reporter] Mr. President, both presidents today undoubtedly studied the overall Arab situation. What we truly see is that the Arab world is, in fact, not in good shape. The solidarity we are seeking is still a lost goal. The Damascus Declaration is based on solidarity, but we do not know whether there will be a delay in its implementation. We had expected it to be implemented in light of the current Arab situation, which we believe is not as good as we would wish it to be. Should we not think once again of returning to the idea of an Arab conference to honestly face the nature of the current Arab situation?

[Al-Asad] In fact, I agree with you that the Arab situation is not as we would wish it to be. It is not characterized by solidarity and cooperation, and it seems that we are standing in front of a closed road which has no end. However, this situation should not create pessimism or despair, for the nation has witnessed many such situations. But overcoming it cannot occur automatically. We have to work, to decide, and to struggle to implement our decision. There is no Arab solidarity with which we can be content. I do not want to say that there is no trace of this solidarity. Our meeting now is, for example, a sign of this solidarity. As we are talking about the nation rather than Syria or Egypt alone, this is not the desired situation. The desired situation, as I have said, is that of achieving solidarity, which will always be our concern in Syria and Egypt. Undoubtedly, we devoted some time to

this issue. Perhaps some of the participants in the meeting talked about the Arab summit and other issues. But it may be completely impractical to call for an Arab summit conference under the current circumstances. It may not be the best way to serve the nation to which we belong. We have to think about steps in this direction. It may be the idea which you have mentioned; namely, the first step toward implementing something by the eight states. It may be a first step toward comprehensive Arab action. We touched on these thoughts. We concluded our talks and we agreed to continue to think about these steps—the first step or the ensuing steps.

[Unidentified Reporter] Then there are ideas about holding a summit for the Damascus Declaration's signatory states?
[Al-Asad] This was what we discussed during our talks. We are thinking about working in that direction at the appropriate time. We also are waiting for a meeting of the foreign ministers, which must be held very soon. Thank you.

[Unidentified Reporter] Mr. Mubarak, how can the peace process be boosted after the Israeli escalation, after Israel has gone too far in its attacks against southern Lebanon and the Arab nation, and, at the same time, in its obstruction of the peace process all the time?
[Mubarak] In fact, to talk about the peace process, we have many factors now that we have to think about very carefully. First, we have the Israeli elections. You see all the parties exercising oneupmanship over the peace process. We cannot take everything the Israelis are saying now for granted. We know, and we are used to this. We must wait until after the Israeli elections and see how they will end up. After that, the statements will be calculated. The statements that are being made now are like any other statements made in elections; they are election statements. Everyone is making intransigent statements in that direction. The same thing is happening in the United States, where there is also an election campaign going on. We have the problem of the Israeli elections and the U.S. elections, although the U.S. Administration's position is firm and has not changed.

As far as peace is concerned, however, we should not lose hope. We must continue with the peace negotiations. We also must stress all the time that we advocate peace and that we want peace; we do not desire war, battles, or blood. Peace is a basic issue and we must not lose direction or hope in it, unless Israel has lost that hope or insists on making us lose that hope. However, we must remain firm. We must continue the negotiations to the very end until the entire world either sees us arriving at peace or becomes convinced that Israel may not want peace. I believe that all Israeli people are for peace.

[Unidentified Reporter] The Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon has been going on for almost two weeks now. Did your talks with President Hafiz al-Asad deal with the situation in Lebanon? What kind of Arab position is required toward this aggression and its possible escalation?

[Mubarak] In fact, we have talked about this topic. Of course, it was one of the principal topics that we discussed. I know that there are many rumors which say that Israel is fabricating this aggression because of the elections and that it is the Israelis who hit one another and then dump it all on southern Lebanon. I hope this is not the case. I doubt this, and I hope that these rumors or statements are not true at all. But, at any rate, we hope that this kind of fighting and this kind of aggression and the shedding of blood without any justification will stop so that the peace process can continue, because it cannot continue this way.

[Unidentified Reporter] On the level of bilateral ties and the ministerial committees, have you discussed an improving of these ties?
[al-Asad] As you know, within the bilateral context we work on the basis of arrangements agreed upon by the two countries. We have committees on the ministerial and other levels, and these committees fulfill the tasks assigned to them in accordance with the general agreement between the two countries. Therefore, this meeting was devoted principally to what you might call issues of a pan-Arab nature, or to pan-Arab issues—naturally, we are part of this pan- Arabism which we talk about—more than to purely bilateral issues. This is because, as far as I know, we in both countries have nothing to complain about as far as bilateral issues are concerned. But, still, if we had more time, we might have discussed, at least as a matter of review or study, this bilateral march. We had very little time, on the one hand, however, and we had nothing to complain about on the other to warrant devoting any time to bilateral issues within the little time we had.

[Mubarak] I would like to add to what my brother, President Hafiz al-Asad, has said; namely, that bilateral relations are proceeding satisfactorily and are developing continuously. There are no problems in bilateral relations that compel us to waste time when we have great pan-Arab problems with which to deal.

[Unidentified Reporter] President Mubarak, you participated in the multilateral negotiations. Have you sensed from your participation that the Israeli stand toward peace is serious?
[Mubarak] I cannot give you a definitive answer and be very clear. However, the whole world is going in the direction of peace. The gathering at the multilaterals was a great one—over 35 countries. These are eyewitnesses to us and to Israel; they can see who wants peace and who does not.

[Unidentified Reporter] I have another question. In evaluating the obstacles that have faced the Damascus Declaration, did you consider Iran's stand which rejects this declaration? At least, did you discuss this issue with the Iranian foreign minister during his recent visit to Damascus?
[Al-Asad] We touched on it briefly during our discussions. Naturally, some states were mentioned, both within the Damascus Declaration framework and within

other frameworks. As I see it, however, Iran is not a cause for hindering or delaying the implementation of the Damascus Declaration. As we understand it, the Iranian approach is not hostile to Syria and Egypt. It is true that a special situation exists to a certain extent. I consider this situation between Egypt and Iran to be transient. I believe—I imagine—that it will not continue for long. Iran is a neighboring Islamic state. Each state has its own problems—our states, as well as other states. However, the interests and the collective heritage and values that bind us play a basic role in our life, we the Arabs, and also with regard to the other Islamic states that surround us.

Essentially, Iran is not against the Damascus Declaration because the declaration basically springs from the good relations between the eight countries—that is what we understood—and Iran; between them and the Islamic states, particularly Iran, in view of its position in the Gulf region. They are aware of this and we are aware of it. If there is any delay, Iran is not the problem.

[Unidentified Reporter] President al-Asad, you have toured the Gulf states. You have just mentioned a summit for the Gulf states or the Damascus Declaration states. Did you discuss this subject in your meetings with the Gulf leaders?
[al-Asad] In fact I did not discuss this idea with such definitiveness in the Gulf states. My talks revolved around improving the Arab situation and Arab solidarity. My discussion focused on the fact that if this current situation continues, it will create a big problem that could reach cataclysmic proportions in the life of the Arab nation. My talks and discussions during my meetings with the brothers revolved around this idea. I found a good atmosphere there and good understanding. We found that some share our feelings that the situation is bad and that the results will be disastrous if it continues.

[Unidentified Reporter] Your Excellency President al-Asad: There is still determination to include Syria in the list of countries that support terrorism. How true are the claims to this effect? Does Your Excellency believe that Israel is behind this campaign?
[al-Asad] As a matter of fact, I have only recently given an interview to the BBC radio and television. I said that the terrorism charge leveled against Syria is, as I remember, an Israeli rather than a U.S. fabrication. This charge emerged because of Syria's position toward the Arab-Israeli conflict. And I believe that each one of you knows that this is the reason behind this. The United States does not have in its possession the least shred of evidence, the most basic proof or documents which it could use as grounds for making such charges. In the past, when the Americans wanted to discuss this issue with us in order to put it behind us, we asked them whether they had any evidence in this regard. They said that they had nothing. However, this is to be attributed to the political decision made in Israel. And we are all aware of how strong the Israeli influence is, thanks to the Zionist lobby and the supporters of Zionism in the United States. That is why we are not worried about these charges. We are not worried about these charges. Eventually, during a political meeting, I addressed the Americans, saying: If there is an American killed by a Syrian, let us discuss this issue. But if this is not the case, then there would be no use for bilateral discussions. Once we depart from this context, we will be tackling issues related to the Arab-Israeli conflict. And in this sphere, the common denominators between us are not that numerous.

[Mubarak] There are many questions posed about the Damascus Declaration. This is, as a matter of fact, because this declaration came into being when there was strong cooperation among the eight signatories. Then the pace of progress along its lines slowed. Moreover, the press continues to talk about repeated postponements of a meeting by the foreign ministers of the declaration's signatories. This, indeed, has confused the public a great deal. This happened in both Syria and Egypt alike. The postponement of the foreign ministers' meeting produced bad reactions. I feel that there is a need for the foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration signatories to meet and to decide on what they can agree upon at the earliest possible date. Later, the situation might require something other than the Damascus Declaration and the Damascus Declaration signatories; namely, the convening of a summit. If it is not to be an Arab summit, then it might be a summit bringing together the leaders of the Damascus Declaration signatories. These countries are cooperating with each other. Later, we will consider the entire Arab state of affairs. This is how I think about and evaluate this issue.

[Unidentified Reporter] Sudan's leader, Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, has recently been quoted as saying that he is holding consultations to convene a Syrian-Iraqi summit. What is the truth regarding this?

[al-Asad] [laughter from both al-Asad and Mubarak, and others] In fact, this matter has not been raised at all. As Arabs, we discussed the Arab state of affairs in general. However, there have never been any specific proposals. The convening of a Syrian- Iraqi summit was not raised at all. You heard that he held a news conference. I would like here to indicate that he spoke with a great deal of amity and praise about the historical ties existing between Egypt and Sudan. I think that you heard some of his statements in this regard. [applause]

[SANA in Arabic at 1657 GMT on 3 Jun in a similar report adds: "The president held a dinner banquet honoring President Mubarak. The members of the Syrian and Egyptian sides were invited to the banquet.

["Egyptian President Mubarak left Damascus at 1815 today at the conclusion of a short working visit to Syria. President Hafiz al-Asad led those who saw him off at Damascus International Airport.

["The Egyptian president also was seen off by Vice Presidents 'Abd- al-Halim Khaddam and Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, the deputies

of the prime minister, various ministers, the Syrian ambassador in Cairo, the Egyptian ambassador in Syria, and the staff of the Egyptian Embassy in Damascus.

["President Hafiz al-Asad accompanied his important guest in an official motorcade from the People's Palace to the Damascus International Airport."]

Iranian Foreign Minister Meets With Khaddam

JN0406100192 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0910 GMT 4 Jun 92

[Text] Damascus, 4 Jun (SANA)—Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam met with Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati and his delegation in Damascus at 0930 this morning.

Their talks focused on current international affairs, the situation in Afghanistan and the Central Asian republics, the latest developments in the Arab-Israeli conflict, and bilateral relations.

Direct Phone Link to 'Occupied Palestine' Denied

JN0406093792 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0830 GMT 4 Jun 92

[Text] Damascus, 4 Jun (SANA)—An official source in the General Telecommunication Corporation [GTC] yesterday denied any direct phone links between Syria and occupied Palestine.

The source added: The GTC in Syria earlier requested that the International Telecommunication Union, as well as international switchboards, not accept any telephone call from occupied Palestine to Syria via a third party.

The source stated that if such a phone call indeed passed through, one of the switchboards would not have abided by the aforementioned Syrian request. Syria, he added, will then shut off communication with any country acting as the third party.

Afghanistan

Explosion Caused by Antitank Missile

LD0306155792 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Text] At least one person was killed and nine others injured when a bomb exploded in the center of Kabul. According to eyewitnesses, the incident apparently happened when the missile of an antitank gun exploded. The incident took place at 1100 this morning in front of the main entrance to Afghanistan's Foreign Affairs Ministry building.

Street Fighting Continues in Kabul Districts

LD0406102992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 4 Jun 92

[Text] Clashes between the forces of Hezb-e Wahdat-e Islami and the Hezb-e Ettehad-e Islami continued today. During these clashes, the two sides attacked each other's positions with light weapons and rocket launchers.

Reports received indicate that street fighting is continuing in several districts of Kabul right now. The interim government has commissioned a team to strive to restore peace in these districts.

Sunni Mojahedin Group Attacks Ambulances

BK0406074592 Hong Kong AFP in English 0713 GMT 4 Jun 92

[Text] Kabul, June 4 (AFP)—Renegade mojahedin fighters broke a temporary ceasefire early Thursday and attacked ambulances ferrying wounded Shiite civilians and troops in battle-scarred Kabul, witnesses said.

The rebels belonging to the mainly Sunni Ettehad-e Eslami faction violated the truce effected earlier in the day with their rivals, the Shiite Hezb-e Wahdat, and attacked the civilians with mortars and rockets in the city's Karte Se area.

The attacks occurred in the vicinity of the International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC) hospital, they said.

The witnesses said the Ettehad were attacking ambulances evacuating a large number of wounded Wahdat, both civilians and mojahedin, and fighting was continuing.

The two traditionally rival groups have been fighting in Kabul since Tuesday, turning their feud into a deadly inter-religious war that has left scores of dead and many more wounded.

Details of casualties from the renewed fighting were not immediately available, but the thud of mortars and light artillery echoed through the city.

Hekmatyar—Failed Agreement Caused Clashes

JN0306195292 Manama WAKH in English 1545 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Text] Abu Dhabi, June 3 (GNA)— A leading Afghan party chief Wednesday said the failure in agreement among the different Afghan parties has led to the recent clashes in Kabul to control power in Afghanistan.

Golboddin Hekmatyar told UAE's Abu Dhabi Television, in a telephone contact today, that the militias and the united party are currently working on internal coordination to achieve some goals, after the Shura Council of the mojahedin leaders had expelled the communists from state institutions.

He strongly rejected the distribution of ministerial offices on partisan, ethnic or tribal bases, noting the Islamic government must come through elections in accordance with Islamic teachings.

Hekmatyar, who is currently in a base at the outskirts of Kabul, expressed grief over the militias' differences which only benefit those outside the mojahedin circle.

He added that the militia leaders have announced yesterday that they are adopting a self-policy and an independent economic program in northern Afghanistan, and in the meantime they are insisting on staying in Kabul and demanding more ministries and official posts.

The leader of the Afghan Islamic Party warned foreign countries from interfering in the Afghan internal affairs.

In response to a question regarding the Stinger missiles provided by the United States to the mojahedin in the past years, Hekmatyar said his party "did not take these missiles. And whoever did should return them."

The U.S. Government has asked the mojahedin to return the Stinger missiles.

India

Pakistan Submits Code for Diplomats' Treatment

BK0306162492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Text] Pakistan has submitted to India a note containing proposals for a code of conduct to be observed in respect of treatment of officials and diplomats in each other's country. The note was handed over to the Indian high commissioner in Islamabad, Mr. S.K. Lamba, by the Pakistan foreign secretary, Mr. Shaharyar Khan, today. Talking to our Islamabad correspondent, Mr. Lamba said that while conveying India's reaction to the note, he has emphasized that the most important aspect is the spirit in which the code of conduct is implemented.

Navy Official Praises Joint Maneuvers With U.S.

BK0306161792 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Text] The deputy chief of the Naval staff, Vice Admiral B. Govil, has said that joint exercises enhance tactical awareness of the Indian Navy about professional procedures and operating concepts of modern day navies. He said good use is being made of the opportunity accorded by ships of foreign navies. At a news conference in New Delhi today, Adm. Govil, who is also the cochairman of the Indo-U.S. steering committee, said the recently held joint Indo-U.S. naval exercises have in no way compromised the country's sovereignty. He said no professional navy conscious of the security-rich information and materials gives away secrets while conducting an exercise. Our correspondent adds that the one-day joint Indo-U.S. naval exercises last week were conducted in a seamanlike and professional manner. Valuable discussions were held on damage control, hull maintenance, and search and rescue procedures.

Technical Credit To Be Used for Export to Russia

BK0306150492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Text] India has agreed to the advance utilization of technical credit of $85 million for export of specified goods to Russia. A Reserve Bank of India press release said in Bombay today that this is in accordance with the Indo-Russian trade protocol for 1992 signed by the two countries last month. The release said it has been decided that initially export of tobacco and cigarettes to the tune of $29 million will be allowed from India to Russia pending finalization of modalities for carrying out trade in respect of other items under the trade protocol.

Trade Unions Warned Against Nationwide Strike

BK0306150092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Text] The government has warned trade unions against taking any step that might disrupt smooth industrial relations and affect the economy. Addressing a meeting of central trade union leaders in New Delhi today, the minister of state for labor, Mr. P.A. Sangma, said there is no need to disrupt industrial production by way of strikes and lockouts in view of the steps initiated by the government to protect the interests of the workers. He was referring to the one-day all-India strike called by central trade unions on the 16th of this month to protest against the economic policies of the government. The trade union leaders welcomed the prime minister's observation at the recently concluded National Development Council meeting that the government has no intention to freeze wages or dearness allowance of workers. An agency report, however, said that major trade unions, barring the INTUC [Indian National Trade Union Congress] and the Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh [Indian Workers Union], have decided to go ahead with the strike.

Iran

Reportage on Anniversary of Imam Khomeyni's Death

Khamene'i Makes Speech

LD0306165292 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1019 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Speech by Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i on 3 June in Tehran to foreign guests attending ceremonies marking third anniversary of demise of Imam Khomeyni—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate: First, I welcome you all dear brothers and sisters who have come to Islamic Iran from different parts of the world with Islamic and faithful enthusiasm to visit the shrine of our great imam, may God raise his status.

In our view, the present juncture in time is a very strange period providing us with many lessons. If we decide to choose the strangest thing among the strange phenomena in this strange world at this time, we could say that today the course of events in the world goes against the wish and policy of the world's dominant powers, which is a reflection of the manifestations of God's power. If you look at the present events in the world with an open mind and monitor carefully where the nations move—where the world in general moves—you will see that the general direction is against what the dominant powers of the world wants it to be.

Here most specifically, the epitome of muscle-flexing by the bullies of the time is America. Now it does not mean that the world's arrogant domineering establishment has given up the desire to struggle through using pressure and force to attain its objectives. On the contrary; the world is full of symptoms of injustice by the dominant powers. Everywhere. More specifically, arrogance is targeting those whom it knows are the ones to inspire the opposition and hostility to dominant powers. These are, by and large, the Muslims of the world.

Yet all in all, what is ultimately making progress is what the enemies of Islam, the enemes of Muslims, and the enemies of victimized nations of the world like to shun—which is what the enemies of Islam are frightened of. If you look at the propaganda in the world today you can see that there is a consistent move to brand Iran's style and the imam's style—may he be admitted to God's paradise—as an antivalue among the peoples of the world, the Muslims of the world and especially the nations and Muslims who have risen. When they want to make accusations against somebody, they accuse them of

being determined to set up a government in the style of Islamic Iran's government. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, some people here and there, and through simplemindedness, may be frightened. They may want to deny it and say that they are not following the path of the imam and the Islamic Republic. But the fact is that the world of Islam has no alternative but to emulate the line of Islamic Iran and the path of the imam. If Muslims—true followers of Islam—anywhere in the world seek deliverance; if they want to repel the domination and power of the Great Satan; if Muslim nations wish to pursue the way to salvation; rid themselves of the pressure imposed by America and the damage inflicted on the nations by the world domineering powers, they have no other way but to follow the path laid down by the imam for the Iranian nation, which he himself traversed with strength and whose effects and blessings the Iranian nation experienced thanks to its perseverance behind its great imam.

I do not mean that Muslim countries should have the same organization, the same particular activities, the same special system that we have set up in Iran. Undoubtedly, conditions, the geographic and historical situation, and so forth, differ between Muslim nations. Each country may have its own particular requirements concerning the method of implementation. But the principal and spirit of the argument—what brought about victory in Islamic Iran and the spread of this ideology throughout the world was able to blunt the sharp sword of the superpowers that was hovering over the Iranian nation and stopped them from carrying out their plans in this country—is summed up in one phrase: the spirit of all things. That is the steadfast, unyielding, uncompromising, and inflexible spirit in the face of global power and world domination; that is, America and its ilk. That is the spirit of the point.

A country may be thinking of implementing and reviving Islam, but if it lacks the spirit of steadfastness and inflexibility in the face of America's dominant power, it would gradually be separated from Islam. [passage omitted]

Does arrogance know any bounds? Would arrogance stop anywhere if it encountered no resistance? The secret of the imam's progress and the divine successes of that great man, that exceptional leader, was the fact that he understood the enemy and stood up to him with all his strength, without budging or trusting them an inch. In those days there were two superpowers that—although they had differences of opinion on about 90 percent of global issues, they agreed on one point: putting pressure on Islamic Iran and the revolutionary system of Iran. Thus, you saw that the Iraqi regime—in its eight years of war with us—was able to benefit from the deployment of Russian, American, French, British, and Brazillian arms and arms from all over the world. Everyone helped Iraq and stood behind it in its war against Islamic Iran. Everyone was hostile toward Iran and fighting Iran. These two superpowers were seriously cooperating to oppose revolutionary Islam. Not for a moment did the imam harbor any shadow of doubt, because he believed in the path he was following and relied on the Almighty. He had faith in the people who accepted their imam, who had come to know him and stood beside him. All these people were instrumental in enabling this country, this system, that leader, and this nation to stand in the face of America and the former Soviet Union—which does not exist today—and all Europe and others. [slogan chanting: "God is great—Khamene'i is the leader; Death to America; Death to Israel; Death to the Monafeqin of Saddam"]

This is the reason behind the issue. You, sisters and brothers, have come from different parts of the world, from among different systms, different traditions and customs, but you are united in your affinities with Islam. If you want to succeed in making Islam victorious; if you want to push aside or lessen the pressures being brought to bear on you by America and other powers; if you want to remain impervious to the domination of the tools and instruments in the hands of the world's bullying statesmen, the solution to all these is contained within this same single word —and this is what Islamic Iran has experienced, and it is the imam's legacy to the world's muslims: Refuse to surrender vis-a-vis America.

If you are able to secure this steadfastness, to identify the methods by which they bring pressure on you, and if you stand against all these, your victory is guaranteed and certain. Of course, conducting the struggle along the path of God is difficult and involves problems, but the objective is lofty; the objective is mankind's salvation; the objective is that that rescues nations and countries from this decadence that global arrogance has brought to the people of the world. Such objectives involve sacrifice and endurance, and the solution and secret of progress is not to surrender. [passage omitted]

Arrogance is merciless, insensitive, and pursues nasty and malevolent, arrogant goals. The moment arrogance feels that a nation is beset by weakness and a sense of surrender, it will increase the pressure. You can see the treatment being meted out to Muslims in the world today. This is because in every part of the world, the executioners of Muslims realized that arrogance's apparatus is happy when pressure is brought to bear on Muslims and when Muslims are massacred. They are freely inflicting injuries on Muslims, which is the situation of the Muslims in Caucasia, Bosnia-Hercegovina, and of Muslim revolutionaries in Algeria. This is the situation of the revolutionary government in Sudan, the noble and mojahed people of Afghanistan, the meek people of Kashmir, and the helpless Muslims of Iraq. Where in the world do you see muslims not suffering in one way or another from the malevolence of global arrogance and the system of global domination. What is the solution, save steadfastness on the part of Muslims themselves, their unity, mutual allegiance, awakening of Islamic societies, and the deployment of the great force of Islam throughout the world.

Look at what the usurper Israeli Government, these usurper Zionists, are doing with the Palestinian and Lebanese nations. Not one day passes without them inflicting some damage on southern Lebanon and the al-Biqa' region. Who should defend the Palestinians, considering that there are over one billion Muslims in the world? Should Muslims just look on and witness the massacre of children, women, and their own relatives and remain silent? All these underground resources, all this wealth, all these arms are at the disposal of Islamic countries and societies.

O my Muslim brothers and sisters: Why are we not able to defend ourselves? It is because we are not united. Why are we not united? Because those governments that are supposed to guarantee such a unity pursue different objectives. There are nationalistic objectives, blasphemous objectives, un-Islamic objectives. The nations' hearts are united. Are there any two nations that bear a grudge against each other? Even the two nations of Iran and Iraq embrace one another after eight years of war. Wars have nothing to do with nations. Disputes have nothing to do with nations. It is the governments that raise disputes, for they pursue un-Islamic motives. This is the ailment that needs a cure.

The demands of the nations must be realized in world countries and regions, and the government must accept the path pursued by the nations. They must follow this path; that is, the path of returning to Islam, the path of observing the Koran's instructions and the path of not being afraid of Islam's enemies.

The governments should not be scared of America and, the nations should not be scared either. They should not fear America's threat and should not retreat. One must stand against the enemy's intimidation by relying on Almighty God. The future belongs to us, God willing.

I hope the dear nation of Iran and the Muslim nations throughout the world succeed in properly understanding the imam's line and the imam's path, which is the same as the path of Islam; and may they pursue this path properly. May God bring abjectness to the enemies of Islam, God willing. May God bring honor and glory to the nation of Islam. May God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you all.

'Millions' Gather at Shrine

LD0406123492 Tehran IRNA in English 1202 GMT 4 Jun 92

[Text] Tehran, June 4, IRNA—Millions of sincere followers of the late leader of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni, gathered in and around his holy shrine near Behesht-e Zahra cemetery in southern Tehran Thursday morning to mourn the third anniversary of the demise of the founder of the Islamic Republic.

A large number of mourners beating their chests and weeping out of deep sorrow fainted and were transferred outside the shrine.

The ceremony officially started at 9:30 local time. However, hours before, the shrine was packed with the mourners, men, women and children all dressed in black and there was absolutely no space for the thousands who continued to stream towards the shrine.

Hundreds of foreign guests who are here for the ceremony and hundreds of the disabled of the 1980-88 Iraq-Iran war on the wheelchair were inside the shrine to pay homage to the imam.

Domestic and also foreign journalists who are in Iran for the occasion were in the shrine covering the event.

Present in the ceremony were Islamic Revolution leader Ayatollah Ali Khamene'i, President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, judiciary head Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, Majles speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri and the late imam's son Hojjat ol-Eslam Ahmad Khomeyni.

Khorasan Governor Cited on Mashhad Disturbances

LD0306170792 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Text] In an interview with the correspondent of the Central News Unit today, Khorasan Governor General Mr. Jannati explained the recent events in the city of Mashhad. He said: Those responsible for such illegal affairs will be put on trial and punished. Responding to a question about how the event was triggered, he said: On Saturday [30 May] morning a number of individuals at the end of Tabarsi Boulevard started to dig ground to construct an unauthorized building. When the city officials told them that what they were doing was illegal, it led to a confrontation, and a city car was taken hostage [as heard].

The confrontation continued until the afternoon of the same day. After setting two city cars on fire and when the security forces began to intervene, those individuals began to move toward the city center. On their way—as a number of hooligans and loiterers joined those elements—they took the initiative, and the disturbances began. They destroyed many shops, banks, and government buildings or set them on fire. Eventually, the disturbance came to an end late at night as the Basij and popular forces intervened.

Responding to another question about those arrested during that disturbance, the Khorasan governor general thanked the brave Basijis and the Hezbollah people who brought the situation under control by their presence on the scene at the same night. He then said: The elements who did this destruction and intimidation and who are now arrested will face severe legal confrontation.

Referring to any connection between such events and economic difficulties, he added: It is the duty of the officials to attend to the difficulties of the people; but demands for solving difficulties must definitely come through legal channels, because the regime and the revolution would never tolerate such acts.

In conclusion, Mr Jannati stated that the event has come to an end, and he said that those who were negligent in preventing the event from spreading have faced legal procedures [barkhord qanuni].

Khuzestan Province Said 'Witnessing Turmoil'

JN0306172692 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Text] The Iranian province of Khuzestan is witnessing turmoil—as well as bloody clashes—between Iranian citizens and personnel of the Iranian regime's Guards.

A statement issued by the Iranian opposition organization, Mojahedin-e Khalq, in Paris today said that Iranian citizens attacked and set ablaze a propaganda exhibition held by the Guards in the city of Shush to protest the repressive policy being pursued by the regime and to demonstrate solidarity with the Mashhad citizens.

The statement added that thousands of citizens in the cities of Dezful and Andimeshk staged massive demonstrations to protest the Iranian regime's human rights violations and executing political prisoners. Personnel of the regime's Guards, the statement said, arrested a large number of demonstrators and wounded many others.

In a related development, the latest reports from inside Iran stated that the regime's top leaders are stressing the need to pursue and to arrest opposition activists within and outside the country, which is particularly being emphasized given that more than 90 demonstrations and clashes have been staged against the regime in 15 Iranian provinces over the past two months.

Economics Minister Cited on '5 Year Plan'

LD0106103892 Tehran IRNA in English 1627 GMT 31 May 92

[Text] Tehran, May 31, IRNA—With the 90 percent increase in non-oil exports, which fetched the country two billion dollars last year, major economic variables as predicted by the first phase of the first five year plan are beginning to materialize, said minister of economy and finance, Mohsen Nurbakhsh today.

He said the budget deficit lowered to less than two percent of the Gross National Product (GNP) and the tax revenues topped the set target. All activities, he added, speak of proper economic conditions despite the problems and issues of the reconstruction era.

Speaking in an interview with IRNA, he said during the first phase of the 5-year plan (started March 1990), more than 16 cement projects, 5 rubber and 5 paper plants, 20 textiles mills, 14 foodstuff and medicine industries, 15 heavy industries, 5 petrochemical projects and development plans for mines and the steel industry have been fully executed throughout Iran by harnessing domestic facilities.

The amount of investments, Nurbakhsh added, have been about 2.4 billion dollars in light industries, 500 million dollars in heavy industries, 1.4 billion dollars in mines and metals, 3 billion dollars in petrochemicals and 365 million dollars in telecommunications.

On untilization of the joint investments, he stated "in the new economic phase, one of the legal means we intend to benefit from actively is utilization of joint investments to implement productive and industrial plans inside the country."

He said based on the law for absorption of and protection of foreign investments, there is no limit to the quantity of foreign investments inside the country. And the amount, he said, is decided by the High Investment Council, which members several ministers.

He added that according to the High Investment Council's approval, foreigners can invest their original capital in floating or competitive rates of foreign exchange, in executution of projects in Iran and the interest is solely returnable in floating rates.

"What we undertake to fulfill against such investments, is to gurantee and support the original capital and its due interest" Nurbakhsh said.

He also said the World Bank last Thursday had ratified a 57 million dollars loan to Iran for prevention of floods in Sistan-Baluchestan Province, in southeast of Iran, as well as improvement of its agriculture. Another loan ratified by the bank, he added, is 77 million dollars to be spent on checking Tehran's surface waters, that will be paid to Iran despite the U.S. Government's opposition.

Ne'matzadeh on Nationals Abroad Investing in Iran

LD3105191992 Tehran IRNA in English 0800 GMT 30 May 92

[Text] Bonn, May 30, IRNA—Visiting Iranian Industries Minister Mohammad Reza Ne'matzadeh here Friday [29 May] called on Iranians residing abroad to make investments in Iran.

Addressing a group of Iranian specialists in Bonn, the minister said that shortage and lack of the specialized work force, investment and proper management hamper industrial flourishment in Iran. The Iranian specialists abroad should help remove the bottlenecks in their country, he added.

Ne'matzadeh who arrived here last Monday also met with high-ranking German officials and discussed expansion of Tehran-Bonn relations.

In a meeting with prime minister of Berlin province Eberhard Diepgen, he pointed to the progress made in bilateral relations and to the existing potentials for promotion of mutual ties in various domains.

He also had a meeting with bank officials and Siemens firm and signed an agreement on cooperation between the two countries' standard institutes.

The head of the Berlin Bank in his talks with Ne'matzadeh referred to the 500-million German mark credit granted by the bank to five Iranian banks two months ago. He said in light of the experiences his bank has in counter-purchase deals, he is ready to help promote bilateral ties through joint investment and counter-purchase agreements. Also agreements were reached in expansion of relations between the Berlin Bank and Iran's Export Promotion Bank.

The Iranian minister also signed agreements with the authorities of 'Kloeckner' and 'Krupp' companies on promotion of bilateral relations and export and transfer of know-how to Iran.

Reportage on Visit by Mexico's Foreign Minister

Solana Meets With Velayati

LD3105135992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 31 May 92

[Text] Mexican Foreign Minister Fernando Solana Morales—who is visiting Tehran and heading a political delegation—met with Foreign Minister Velayati this morning. In the meeting, our country's foreign minister expressed pleasure about the forthcoming opening of the Mexican Embassy in Tehran, and he announced the Islamic Republic of Iran's willingness to expand bilateral ties in political, economic, and commercial fields. He added: In this connection, there are many areas of possible cooperation, and they must be activated.

The Mexican foreign minister, for his part, welcomed expanding bilateral ties and conveyed his country's willingness to set up a joint Iranian-Mexican economic commission. Stressing the fact that there are many areas for possible cooperation, he expressed interest in exchanging lecturers and students to expand cultural ties.

It should be noted that the Mexican Embassy in Tehran will be opened by Mr. Solana this evening.

Reviews Oil Collaboration Prospects

LD3105203492 Tehran IRNA in English 1400 GMT 31 May 92

[Text] Tehran, May 31, IRNA—Iran and Mexico on Sunday expressed interest to cooperate in the area of refining and marketing oil.

Mexico's Foreign Minister Fernando Solana Morales here Sunday reviewed prospects for Iran-Mexico collaboration with Iranian Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i. He said both countries had sufficient grounds on which to cooperate to their mutual benefit.

Aqazadeh-Kho'i and Solana agreed that a delegation of Iran's oil experts should visit Mexico for a prefeasibility study of common grounds for cooperation.

Signs Letter of Understanding

LD0106185492 Tehran IRNA in English 1608 GMT 1 Jun 92

[Text] Tehran, June 1 IRNA—The Mexican secretary of foreign affairs, Fernando Solana Morales, and Iran's minister of foreign affairs 'Ali 'Akbar Velayati signed a letter of understanding here today.

The two sides also agreed on setting up a joint commission at a [as received] near future for the expansion of economic ties between Tehran and Mexico. Mutual cooperation on international and regional issues as well as bilateral relations, and cancelling visa requirements for official government employees on assignment and for diplomats of both countries were among the topics agreed on.

The letter of understanding underlined expanding economic, political, cultural and technological cooperation in the field of petroleum, energy and exchange of university students.

Cooperation on gas, petrochemistry, transfer of technology and know-how, exchange of expert missions as well as air transportation between the two countries were other items in the letter of understanding.

Meanwhile Iran's Foreign Minister Velayati accepted an invitation extended to him by his Mexican counterpart to visit Mexico early next year.

Heading a Mexican delegation, Morales arrived in Tehran yesterday. During his two-day stay here he held talks with President 'Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, and with ministers of oil, economy and finance and the head of chamber of commerce industries and mines, and reopened the Mexican Embassy in Tehran which was closed down for the past 13 years.

Morales left for home Monday afternoon.

Meeting With President Cited

LD0106100892 Tehran IRNA in English 1536 GMT 31 May 92

[Text] Tehran May 31, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani today received Malaysian and Mexican foreign ministers.

In a meeting with Malaysian foreign minister, Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Rafsanjani emphasized on the need for the expansion of cooperation among the Islamic countries. "This is a right thing which the authorities of these states should materialize and eliminate the problems of the Third World countries and the Muslims regarding mutual cooperation," he added.

Badawi too expressed satisfaction over Tehran-Kuala Lumpur relations and said he believed the process of their relations would expand further in the coming years.

The Mexican secretary of foreign affairs, Fernando Salona Morales too in his meeting with Rafsanjani enumerated fields for the expansion of Tehran-Mexico city relations and urged the president to establish active ties with Mexico.

Morales said the two countries, despite their long geographical distance can have extensive cooperation in cultural, commercial, energy and industrial fields.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed his willingness for expansion of bilateral cooperation with Mexico and welcomed exchange of views between Iranian and Mexican experts to explore ways for promotion of mutual cooperation.

"Our policy is to maintain relations and cooperation with different countries of the world, based on friendship and mutual respect," said Rafsanjani. "In view of the need for diversifying relations with the world countries, we are interested in upgrading of relations with Mexico," Hashemi-Rafsanjani noted.

Solana Departs 1 Jun

LD0106150992 Tehran IRNA in English 1327 GMT 1 Jun 92

[Text] Tehran, June 1, IRNA—Mexican Secretary of Foreign Affairs Fernando Solana Morales left Tehran Monday after a two day stay here during which he reopened the embassy of his country and held talks with high ranking Iranian officials.

Before departure, Morales told reporters at the airport that "with the reopening of the Mexican embassy, relations between the two countries will further expand." He also termed his talks with Iranian officials as "fruitful."

He said the establishment and promotion of economic and industrial relations in government and private sectors and exchange of experiences in training, cultural, financial and banking fields as well as oil cooperation were among the topics he discussed in Tehran.

Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmud Va'ezi, who saw off Morales, said Mexico is one of the influential and powerful countries in South America and for this reason the authorities of both countries have decided to promote their political, economic and cultural ties.

He said South-South cooperation and exchange of views on regional and international issues and cooperation in the United Nations were among the topics discussed by the Mexican and Iranian officials.

While in Tehran, the Mexican secretary of foreign affairs met with President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i, Economy and Finance Minister Mohsen Nurbakhsh and head of the Chamber of Commerce, Mines and Industry 'Ali-Naqi Kamushi.

Armenia Reiterates Need for Observer in Nakhichevan

LD3105171592 Tehran IRNA in English 0626 GMT 31 May 92

[Text] Moscow, May 31, IRNA—Armenian presidential adviser Ashot Manuchehrian in a meeting with Iranian Charge d'Affaires in Yerevan Bahram Qasemi Saturday reiterated the need for presence of Iranian observer forces in borders between Armenia and the autonomous republic of Nakhichevan.

Manuchehrian said that Iran plays an important role in the region in view of Tehran's neutrality and good-will in this respect.

Manuchehrian and Qasemi also discussed regional developments and exchanged views on the dispatch of Iranian observer forces.

The Armenian official also briefed Qasemi on Yerevan's viewpoints regarding the settlement of the issues between Nakhichevan and Armenia.

The Iranian diplomat said that Tehran positively responds to the Armenian request regarding the presence of Iranian observers and promised that necessary steps in coordination with the governments of Armenia and Nakhichevan would be taken to this end.

Manuchehrian made a similar appeal to Tehran in a statement issued in Yerevan last Wednesday. The same request was also made by the Armenian prime minister.

South Korean Envoy, Commerce, Labor Ministers Meet

LD3105214692 Tehran IRNA in English 1153 GMT 31 May 92

[Text] Tehran, May 31, IRNA—South Korea's new Ambassador to the Islamic Republic Yi sang-yol held separate meetings with ministers of commerce and labour Saturday [30 May] on promotion of Tehran-Seoul economic and trade ties.

Commerce minister 'Abdol Hoseyn Vahaji announced Iran's interest in joint investment and in reactivating the two countries' Chamber of Commerce.

Underlining the favourable position of the Islamic Republic in the region, Vahaji said Iran is interested in exporting non-oil products including handwoven carpets, caviar and handicrafts, to South Korea.

The South Korean ambassador welcomed expansion of economic and trade ties with Iran and expressed hope that Iran's non-oil products would soon enter the Korean market.

The commerce minister also called for promotion of technical cooperation and transfer of technology.

Yi, in his meeting with Labour Minister Hoseyn Kamali yesterday, said South Korea was ready to exchange experiences with Iran on technical and vocational training and employment.

The two sides stressed the need for expanding bilateral relations in the fields of labour and social affairs.

Kohl Envoy Cited on Attacks on Missions in Germany

LD0106184692 Tehran IRNA in English 1542 GMT 1 Jun 92

[Text] Tehran, June 1, IRNA—German Chancellor Helmut Kohl's special envoy who arrived here with a message for President 'Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani last night, met with Foreign Minister 'Ali 'Akbar Velayati this morning.

Bernd Schmidbauer at the meeting voiced his government's deep concern over the recent attacks on Iran's consulates and diplomatic missions in Germany by Iranian counterrevolutionaries and said the Bonn government would do its best so that such incidents would not happen again.

He termed Tehran-Bonn relations as significant and said obstacles on the way of their broadening should be surmounted. He also invited Velayati to pay an official visit to Germany next month, which was accepted.

Velayati said to prevent the recurrence of similar incidents, strong action should be taken against those involved. He said Iran counts on Tehran-Bonn relations and termed them promising.

Velayati left Tehran for Damascus later today to hold talks with Syrian and Lebanese officials and to deliver Rafsanjani's message to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

Pakistan

Concern Conveyed to India on Agni Missile

BK0306144692 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Text] Pakistan has expressed its concern over the development of Agni missile by India. A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today the Indian action is not conducive to improving the climate of peace and security in the region. It is also against the worldwide trend of reconciliation and disarmament. The spokesman told newsmen in Islamabad today that Pakistan has conveyed its concern to the government of India over the development of intermediate-range surface-to-surface Agni missile, which has a range of 2,500 km. The spokesman expressed the hope that the international community would take due note of the negative implication of the launching of Agni missile and take effective remedial measures.

The spokesman said the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, is paying a three-day official visit to Uzbekistan from the 27th [date as heard] of this month. The prime minister will leave for Rio de Janeiro on next Wednesday [10 June] to lead Pakistan's delegation at world Earth Summit beginning on the 13th of this month. On the same morning, the prime minister will meet his Indian counterpart, Mr. Narasimha Rao. Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif is also scheduled to meet the Chinese prime minister, Mr. Li Peng, on the 12th of this month. After the Rio summit, the prime minister will pay a five-day official visit to Britain from the 16th of this month.

Spokesman on Missile, Indian Actions

BK0306163092 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Text] Pakistan has expressed its concern over India's development of the Agni missile, which has a range of 2,500 km. A Foreign Office spokesman told newsmen in Islamabad today that the development of the Agni missile is not conducive to improving the climate of peace and security in the region and is against the worldwide trend of reconciliation and disarmament that is vigorously being pursued by the international community. He said Pakistan had previously proposed to the Indian Government bilateral discussions to address the issue of missile proliferation in South Asia. He expressed the hope that the international community would take due note of the negative implications of the launching of the Agni missile and take effective remedial measures.

The spokesman said that Pakistan is committed to holding a dialogue with India on lethal weapons, including missiles and missile technology. The purpose of holding such a dialogue is to bilaterally reduce the threat to the region resulting from the acquisition of such weapons and technology. He listed five elements of the issue of weapons of mass destruction as biological, chemical, and nuclear weapons, missile technology, and overall conventional defense forces.

In reply to a question on whether Pakistan would like to acquire missile technology, the spokesman said that we will do everything possible to defend ourselves against any threat. On the recent diplomatic row between Pakistan and India, the spokesman said that Pakistan has proposed a code of conduct for treatment of diplomats assigned in the two countries. He expressed the hope that India will soon respond to the proposal and if the two governments agree on it, then the incidents of harassing diplomats will end soon. The spokesman clarified that the proposal reaffirms the Vienna Convention principles on diplomatic privileges and immunity and defines the rules of treatment of diplomats. The proposal also says that news correspondents, airlines officers and other such personnel should be included in this category.

Turning to the interference from across the border in Sindh and other parts of the country, the spokesman said that Pakistan will inform its friends if this interference continues unabated. He referred to the prime minister's recent statement on the subject and said that the matter has been under discussion between Pakistan and other friendly countries over a period of time. Pakistan has told India and other countries that we have evidence of such interference. Pakistan hopes that other countries can hold talks with India to put an end to such activities.

The spokesman recalled that views were exchanged on the issue during the last round of the foreign secretary-level talks in New Delhi and the two sides expressed the desire to resolve the problem.

Secret Services Said Planning Punjab Disturbances

BK0306104992 Islamabad THE NATION in English 3 Jun 92 pp 1, 15

[By Shakeel Anjum]

[Text] Islamabad—Organised cliques of terrorists, dacoits, [robbers] bandits and other criminals, reportedly patronised by the Indian Secret Agency, RAW [Research and Analysis Wing], have been pushed in Punjab to sabotage the peace and order of the province to counter the ensuing clean-up operation initiated by the Army in Sindh.

This was disclosed in a detailed report submitted to the Prime Minister by a secret agency working under the Federal Government here on Tuesday [2 June] morning. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif had asked the agencies a few days back to submit a report about the reasons of high increase in the rate of heinous crimes in the province.

Security measures have already been tightened on the sensitive installations, airports and other important buildings.

The report feared further increase in the rate of heinous crimes in the province in the near future. The highly placed source maintained that the RAW had made a plan to divert the attention of the government from Sindh by sabotaging the order in the Punjab. The report asserted that the people would be distracted by sectarian and ethnic riots.

The RAW wanted to achieve its aims [by] creating sense of insecurity among the people through the very contemptible conspiracy, the report disclosed.

The next stop of the plotter would be to create ethnic rebellions between Sindhis and Muhajir in Sindh, Pashtun and Balochis in Balochistan and local Pashtun and Afghan refugees in Peshawar and sectarian riots to between Shias and Sunnis throughout the country. The report said that the aims of the minor crimes like snatching of vehicles on the gun points from the busy areas were to create harassment among the citizens. The dacoitics [organized robberies], robberies and salaries snatching incidents were part of the contemptible conspiracy.

The source said that the terrorists were pushing in Pakistan Ceasefire Line in Kashmir by the RAW. However, he asserted that government was aware of the activities of the terrorists and security measures had been adopted by the agencies.

When SSP [Senior Superintendent of Police] Islamabad, Pervaiz Rathore, was contacted, he asserted that the agents had been identified by the security agencies. He maintained that Army experts, SSG [Special Service Group], Special Protection Groups. Anti-Terrorists Squads and other experts had been put in all the woody areas of the Federal Capital to counter the terrorists activities. He said that the Commandos were fully equipped with nocturnal visition devices (NVD) and other weapons like pistols, hand grenades, and other automatic weapons to crush the anti-state elements. He said that the latest wireless communication network was given to the commandos spread in the jungles around the Federal Capital. The SSP also maintained the heavy contingents of police had also been put in the busy areas of the city in plain clothes. He suspected that the RAW agents would become more active to terrorise the citizens but, he asserted, they would be crushed in all the corners of the city.

It was also learnt by the highly placed sources that the Government of Pakistan had finally decided to encircle the RAW agents active in the country. Authorities are likely to take big steps to block the increasing interference from India.

Sources disclosed that Rajesh Mittal, recently declared persona non grata, had pointed out two of the diplomats involved in anti-Pakistan activities. One, the sources maintained, was working on the affairs of Azad Kashmir while the other was deputed to have an eye on Sindh affairs. Both had developed relations with some of the so-called politicians of Sindh as well as Azad Kashmir. Sources added that both were found having committed mysterious activities.

Ambassador To Belgrade Recalled Over Serbia

BK0306145092 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Text] Pakistan has decided to recall its ambassador from Belgrade as a mark of its concern over the Serbian behavior in the region. The envoy is being recalled to Islamabad in response to a call made by the ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] secretary general a few days ago.

Plan To Cancel Mirage Deal With France Denied

BK0306104592 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 3 Jun 92 p 12

[Text] Rawalpindi, June 2—A spokesman of the Defence Ministry said Tuesday [2 June] that Pakistan was carefully examining all options to upgrade and augment its fleet of aircraft.

When contacted to comment on a news item published in a section of the press about the dropping of deal with France on the purchase of Mirage-2000 aircraft, the spokesman termed it "baseless and devoid of truth."

The spokesman said that since the suspension of foreign military sales package and as a result of suspension on sales of F-16 aircraft by the United Sates, the PAF

[Pakistan Air Force] was in the process of examining all possible available options to augment and upgrade its air fleet.

He said "Mirage-2000 of France is on the top of all these options being considered in this regard."

Sri Lanka

LTTE 'Terrorists' Kill 15 People in Amparai

BK0306111892 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Text] LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists have killed 15 passengers traveling in a private bus along the Komari-Reni road at the 209th milepost in the Amparai district. The JOC [Joint Operations Command] spokesman told the SLBC that this incident took place around 1545 yesterday. Out of the 15 shot dead, 12 were Muslims, one Tamil, and one Sinhalese policeman. There was also a Sinhalese civilian. The bus was plying between Akkaraipattu and Pottuvil. Two civilians and one policeman who were seriously injured are receiving treatment at the Badulla hospital.

Military Leaders Among 275 LTTE Men Killed

BK0306114892 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 3 Jun 92

[Text] Government troops have killed 38 LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] military wing leaders in the current offensive against the terrorists in the north. Military sources told LANKAPUVATH that a top-ranking Tiger leader, Castro, was reported critically wounded in the fighting at Tellippalai on Sunday. They said 23 leaders have been killed in Operation Satwatha at Mullaitivu, while 15 have been killed in Jaffna. Among the senior Tigers who have been killed at Jaffna and Mullaitivu are majors Purinandan, Premachandran, and Amudan, and captains Kennedy Silvam and (Rosalan). The headquarters of Sea Tiger leaders—(Susai) and Gaddafi—have also been destroyed at Velvettiturai. Jaffna was reported quiet as troops of Operation Whirlwind consolidated their position at Tellippalai. Air Force fighter bombers and helicopters continue to pound LTTE positions, softening them up for ground troops. An estimated 275 terrorists have been killed by government troops in five days of heavy fighting in the north.

Tamil Party Severs Links With Opposition SLFP

BK0306102692 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0834 GMT 3 Jun 92

["OANA/pool" Item]

[Text] Colombo, Jun 03 (LANKAPUVATH)—The five-member EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front] group in parliament has decided to sever its links with the SLFP [Sri Lanka Freedom Party]-led opposition as a protest against the SLFP's decision to pull out of the parliamentary select committee on the ethnic issue, a party spokesman said. The EPRLF, which contested the last election on the TULF [Tamil United Liberation Front] list, had been with the SLFP-led opposition while the TULF members had functioned as an independent group, supporting government or opposition on the merit of each issue. The EPRLF was one of the six Tamil groups which met the opposition leader last week and urged the SLFP to review its decision to pull out of the parliamentary select committee. EPRLF Secretary General Suresh Premachandran told Mrs. Bandaranaike that the Tamil question should be treated as a national problem and not used as a weapon against the government. The SLFP central committee however turned down the appeal by the Tamil parties. "Tamils can no longer support the SLFP which is refusing to rise above sectarian interests," a spokesman of the EPRLF said. He added: "We will lose our standing with the Tamil people if we continue to align ourselves with the SLFP." The EPRLF is now planning to announce its decision to function as an independent group in parliament, when it meets next Tuesday.